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Something for the children

J William Green

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SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN:

A

Gift Book for all Occasions.

BY

J. W. GREEN,

AUTHOR OF

"THE UNIVERSAL PRIMER," "THE SECOND BOOK,"
"USEFUL KNOWLEDGE FOR LITTLE CHILDREN," "FIRST TALES FOR CHILDREN,"
"THE NURSERY ANNUAL,"
ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY GEORGE MEASOM.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY
WILLIAM TEGG AND CO., CHEAPSIDE.
1849.



LONDON:
SPOTTISWOODE and SHAW,
New-street-Square.

P R E F A C E.

THAT kindly-disposed people love children there is no reason to doubt ; for what tradesman is there who deals in matters of fancy, and does not daily, if not hourly, hear the words, “ Let us take something for the children ? ” Happily for the “ little urchins,” the feeling is universal among the adult members of society.

Now, to that large class who love children the Author of this work puts the question, “ Is it not a puzzle what to take ? ” If we take dainties for the palate it may be construed into an implication that “ the children ” are insufficiently fed ; or that they never partake of delicacies ; or, worse than all, that they are gluttonously disposed ! If we resolve on some little matter of dress, the difficulty does not by any means vanish with the alternative — for here we have that never-failing stumbling-block, taste ; and what two persons ever harmonized in taste ? A present which one kindly-disposed person may take to another, as the very beau-ideal of

taste, may in the estimation of the recipient be considered a "perfect fright," thus exemplifying love's labour lost.

Toys, again, multiply the difficulty, for there may be several young members of a family, all of whom may fancy a toy selected for *one* amongst them, and slight the rest of the presents — and thus dissension, envy, and many other evil feelings will be introduced by an act of love.

The Author of this work has often witnessed and felt these perplexities, and it has occurred to him that a book might be appropriately devoted to such a purpose under the title he has chosen.

What can be a more fitting present than one which addresses itself to the mental capacities of those to whom it is presented? Where are the parents who would be offended at any one presupposing a love of knowledge in their children? It is, in fact, the only legitimate flattery we can practise.

In order to make the book generally applicable, the Author has presented such matter as will be of universal interest to children of both sexes, and he trusts that in sending it forth he will be found to have supplied the desideratum of those who seek "something for the children."

SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN.

GUTTA PERCHA.

MANY of my young readers, especially those who live in London, have no doubt seen in shop windows a brown substance somewhat resembling the leather used for soles of boots and shoes, and, if they are desirous of knowledge, have no doubt wished to know what it is.

The immeasurable goodness of God is ever being displayed in some new and wonderful provision for the comfort of his creatures. New discoveries spring up daily; the inventions of man are continually showing how good, above all calculation, God has been to man in giving him the ability to make these discoveries.

If we look back to the times when men, women, and children lived in caves, and had only the wild fruits and water for their food, and compare those times with the present, does it not fill us with wonder? If we contemplate the con-

tents of a chemist's shop, what but almost superhuman skill could ever have discovered the various uses of the thousand ingredients there to be found? If we consider how readily man turns all things to his use and comfort; how he converts the production of the silk worm into the most lustrous and costly material of dress — how from the simple flax-plant he derives the most comfortable and durable clothing — how from simple coal he brilliantly illuminates whole cities; — if we contemplate man's power to foretell eclipses of the sun, moon, and stars, many years before they happen — if in fact we consider every thing around us, how diligent we ought to be to cultivate that intelligence which has been so mercifully bestowed on us. I hope my young readers will always think of these things, for by so doing they will ensure to themselves lasting happiness.

But we must return to the brown substance of which I began to tell you, which so much resembles leather. It is called Gutta Percha, and is a remarkable instance of the rapidity with which Englishmen improve and make the most of such discoveries. A year ago it was unknown; but now, every day sends forth some new purpose to which it is being applied. Soles for boots and shoes, bands for turning the wheels of machines, which may be made of any length or strength; harness of all descriptions, belts and bandages for surgical purposes; and as it can be spread out into the

thinnest sheets, it may be used for every purpose where a waterproof nature is required. It may also, when melted, be moulded into picture frames of the most lasting and complicated patterns. In fact, we know not to what purposes it will ultimately be applied.

Well, my young friends, I must now tell you what this substance is. It is made from the *sap or juice of a tree!* which grows in Borneo and other of the many islands which are situated between the Pacific Oceans and the Indian Sea, towards China, forming a cluster with Sumatra, Java, Malacca, &c.

Dr. Oxley, of Singapore, who has written about this tree, says, that it is sixty or seventy feet in height, and about three feet round the base or body of the tree, and grows very abundantly.

In order to obtain the gum, the trees, when full grown, are cut down, and circular gashes or cuts are made in the trunk at distances of from twelve to eighteen inches. The sap which runs from these openings is collected in vessels, and is then boiled, in order to clear it of water, and render it of a glutinous nature. One tree will produce sometimes as much as twenty-five pounds weight of the gum. Its colour, when pure, is of a greyish-white. The red tinge being occasioned by bits of the bark becoming mixed with the sap.

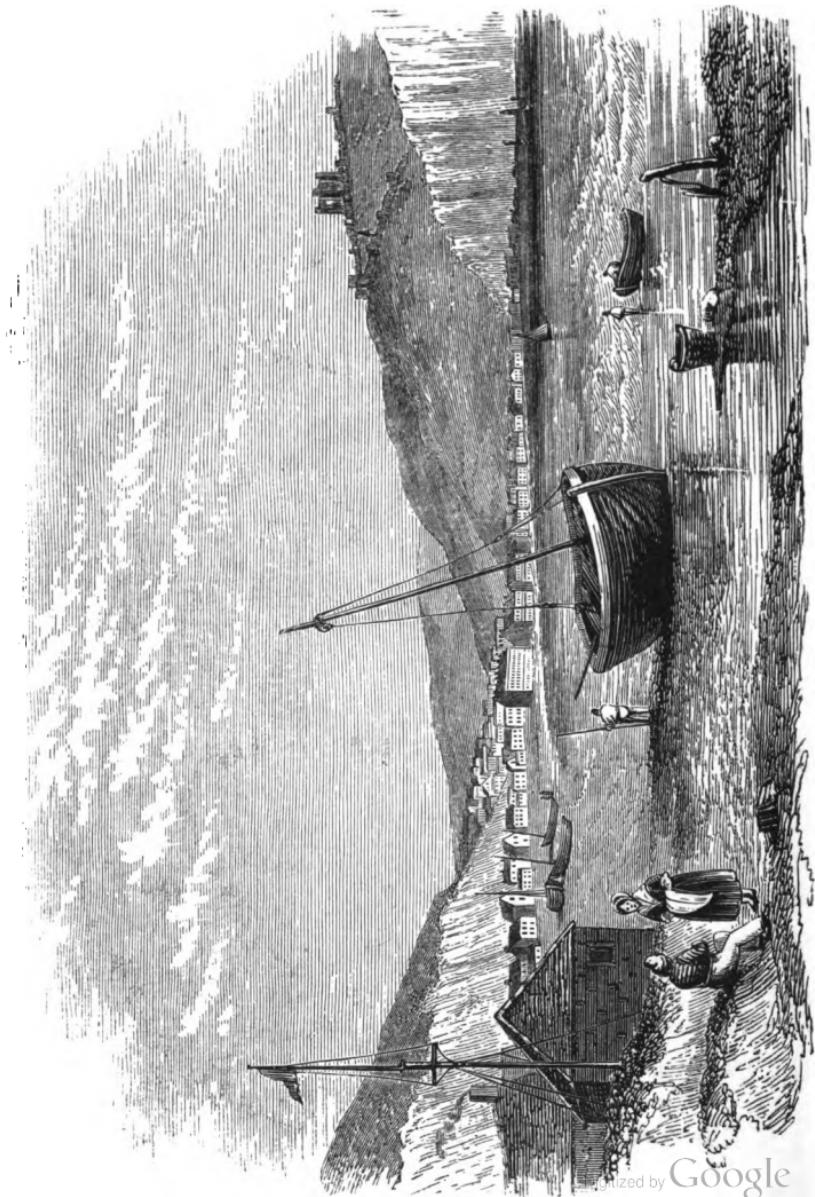
The substance produced by boiling the juice may easily

be dissolved by boiling spirits of turpentine or naphtha, but water has no effect upon it, unless it be at a very high degree of heat, when it becomes somewhat more elastic and softened, and may be moulded into any shape, which it will retain when cooled.

This is an excellent quality in surgical applications; for by this, the instruments called splints, which are used to support broken limbs, may be nicely fitted to the wants of the injured person.

Dr. Oxley says, the amount to which this gum may be obtained is as yet unknown; but it is to be hoped the extravagant manner of collecting it adopted in the Straits of Malacca may be avoided, and that the natives may be easily taught the folly of wasting this valuable material in so improvident a manner.

DOVER.



LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

DOVER.

FROM its proximity to the Continent Dover has for many years been the usual port for passengers going from or arriving in England. Dover is situated on the coast, at the opening of a deep valley formed by a recess in the chalk hills, which here present a transverse section to the sea. This recess runs into the interior for several miles, and forms the basin of a small stream.

In the reign of Henry VIII. the Emperor Charles V. landed here, and Henry on that occasion contributed a large sum for the erection of a pier, which was subsequently completed in the reign of Elizabeth. The castle, which is on the northern side of the town, is supposed to have been originally constructed by the Romans. The southern heights of Dover were strongly fortified during the late war, and extend in a semicircle as far as the famous Shakspeare's Cliff, so called from the celebrated scene in "King Lear."

The castle stands on the most elevated portion of a hill to the east of the town, and immediately above it, forming a conspicuous object, visible for miles around, and for the last 1800 years has served as a landmark to guide the mariner to the shores of England. The hill itself, one of the long

chain of white cliffs which bound the southern shores of England, rises nearly perpendicularly from the sea to a height of more than 300 feet, and being divided from the neighbouring hills by deep valleys on the south-west and north-east, as well as by abrupt declivities on nearly every part but the west or north-west, which has a more gentle declivity, may be said to form a bold promontory.

During the French revolution it was considered important to secure and defend Dover Castle as a military station. Large sums were voted for this purpose, and miners and other labourers were employed to excavate the rock for purposes of defence, and cast up additional mounds and ramparts. Extensive barracks were excavated in the solid rock, by which accommodations were provided for a garrison of three or four thousand men. The subterraneous rooms and passages are shown to visitors on an order of the military commandant being obtained. There is an armoury in the keep, and many curiosities are to be seen; among which are Queen Elizabeth's pocket-pistol, a beautiful piece of brass ordnance presented to Elizabeth by the States of Holland, as a token of respect for the assistance she afforded them against Spain. It is 24 feet long, and bears a Dutch inscription, of which the following is a translation:—

O'er hill and dale I throw my ball,
Breaker my name of mound and wall.



THE DRUNKARD'S HOME.

PART I.

IT was a clear morning in March. The ground, bushes, and fences were sparkling with their frosty covering. The hills and leafless trees looked as if they could not long remain bare and leafless beneath a sky so bright. A robin here and there ventured a short and sweet note, and earth and sky seemed to rejoice in the scene. The path that led to the

village-school was crowded with happy children, whose glowing cheeks and merry voices told they partook of the general gladness.

In this path, at a distance from a group of neatly-dressed and smiling children, stood a little girl, whose pale face, tattered clothes, and bare feet told that she was the child of poverty and vice. She looked upon the laughing crowd before her with a sad countenance, and hid under her shawl a small bottle, till the children were out of sight, and then, turning into another road, proceeded on her usual errand to the public house.

The bright calm morning and the beauties of creation had no charm for her. Her little heart felt none of that lightness and joy which the hearts of children feel when nature is beautiful around them. She could not laugh as they laughed, and as the sound of their merry voices seemed still to linger on her ear, she wondered she could not be as happy as they were.

And why should this deserving and good child feel so wretched? She thought of the dreariness and poverty of her home, of the cruelty of her father, the neglect and unkindness of her mother—of the misery of the long cold winter through which she had just passed—of the hunger which her little brothers and herself often felt. She thought of the neat appearance of the children she had just seen, and

then looked upon her own dress, torn and dirty as it was, till the tears filled her eyes and her heart became sad indeed.

Mary was the name of this little girl, and she was a very sensible child. She knew what made those happy children so different from herself. She well knew that they would spend that day in school, learning something useful, while she would spend it in idleness at home, or in trying to quiet her hungry baby brother, and please the other children, while her mother was making matches for segars. Mary knew she was that very morning to carry home something that would make her mother cross and wholly unmindful of her destitute children.

When she had reached the public house the publican was not there, but his son, an intelligent boy of thirteen, stood behind the counter, at play with his sister. Mary asked for the rum with a faltering tone, and as she set down the bottle, the honest young publican, looking upon her with mingled contempt and pity, said, "What does your mother drink so much rum for?" Mary felt ashamed, and looked so sad, that the youth was sorry for what he had said. He gave her the rum, and Mary, with a heavy heart, proceeded on her way.

When she had reached her dwelling — and who needs a description of a drunkard's dwelling? — her mother met her at the door, and, hastily snatching the bottle from her hand,

drank off its burning contents. She then took some meal to prepare a breakfast of gruel. Mary was sent to pick up some chips to light the fire. The humble meal was then placed upon the scanty fire, and the impatient children hovered round to watch its progress with eager, longing eyes.

After the meal, the little boys, with their hunger scarcely satisfied, left the house, to loiter, as usual, in the streets; while Mary, as she saw her mother become every moment more incapable of attending to the wants of her infant, took the poor little creature in her arms, and in trying to soothe its sufferings half forgot her own. She had just succeeded in lulling the baby when her father entered. Though once a strong active man, so degraded had he become by drunkenness, that no one was willing to employ him, and he resorted to any means of obtaining what his appetite for drink demanded.

On entering the room and seeing the state his wife was in, he uttered a loud curse, and at the same time bade Mary leave the crying child, and put on her bonnet and go out to sell a silk handkerchief he had found, telling her to bring in some rum on her return.

Mary put on her bonnet, and with a trembling heart went on her errand. On her way she met her brothers, and stopped to tell them that, as their father was at home, they had better keep out of the house till her return.

In vain did she try to dispose of the handkerchief for the sum her father had told her to get for it. Those who knew whose child she was would not buy it, for they knew how the price of it would be spent; and those who knew her not cared not to oblige her.

At length, wearied out and fearful, she sat down by the road-side and wept bitterly; but evening was fast coming on; she knew she must go home, and what would her father say if she returned without selling the handkerchief. This she could not do, and she thought of trying to exchange it for the rum he wanted.

After waiting some time at the counter till the wants of several customers were supplied, she told her wishes to the publican; and after much hesitation on his part, and much entreaty on her own, the handkerchief was exchanged for rum.

Mary then rapidly retraced her steps, and with a beating heart entered her home.

Her father was not there, but her mother was; and, upon inquiring where Mary had been, she insisted on having the rum.

Mary refused as long as she dared, for she knew how terrible the anger of her father would be, if he found the quantity of rum diminished. But the mother, thoughtless of every thing but the gratification of her appetite, seized the bottle and drank a large part of its contents.

It was scarcely swallowed before her husband entered, and enraged at the conduct of his wife, he reproached Mary first, and then her mother, in the most bitter terms. The provoking replies of the latter excited his rage almost beyond control; and Mary, fearing for the safety of herself and her brothers, crept with them into an empty closet, where, with their arms round each other, they remained, almost breathless with alarm, trembling at their father's loud threats and their mother's fearful screams.

At length all was silent except the low groans of the suffering wife and the cries of the helpless baby. The children then crept from their hiding-place to seek for some food, before they laid themselves down upon their wretched bed, to forget their fears for a while in sleep. But in vain did they look for a crust of bread, or a potato. Mary could find nothing; so the hungry children, with their wants un-supplied, were obliged to lay themselves down.



THE DRUNKARD'S HOME.

PART II.

THE TEMPERANCE MEETING.

IN the neighbourhood, in which Mary's parents lived, the lost and wretched condition of the family attracted attention; but the case of the parents seemed so hopeless, that little exertion was made to persuade them to abandon their ruinous habits, till an energetic agent of the Temperance cause visited the place. The husband and wife were then induced, by the

promise of help, to attend a temperance meeting, and listen to his address. Whispers and significant looks passed between the acquaintances when Thomas and his wife entered the place of meeting, and scarcely one among the number thought they could be at all benefited by what they might hear. But they did not see Thomas's heart, or know what a wretched being he felt himself to be. Through necessity, neither he nor his wife had now tasted spirits for several days, as their means of obtaining it had failed; for persons of their character could not obtain employment. Thus situated Thomas knew he must take a different course, or himself and family would be sent to the workhouse. It was on account of these circumstances that he this evening consented with his wife to attend the meeting.

When the speaker commenced, Thomas feeling exceedingly uneasy, wished himself away. But by degrees he became more and more interested; until his eyes fixed upon the speaker, and a tear rolling down his bloated face proved the depth of his feelings. He heard his own case so well described, the remedy so plainly pointed out, so affectionately urged, that a new light seemed to break upon his mind, and he inwardly exclaimed, I can do it — I will do it, if I die in the attempt, and at the close of the lecture, going boldly up to a group of temperance men, he requested that his name, and that of his wife might be added to the temperance list.

A murmur of approbation followed his request, and hand after hand was presented for a shake of congratulation. Nancy pulled her husband's coat as she heard her name mentioned, and said faintly, "Not mine, Thomas, not mine." But the words were unheard, or disregarded, and he bent steadily over the shoulder of the secretary till he actually saw the names of Thomas and Nancy Millman among the names of those who pledged themselves to abstain from all use of ardent spirits.

As he turned to leave the church, William Stevens, a sober, industrious man, a friend of Thomas in his better days, but who had long abandoned the society of a drunkard, took him by the hand, and after expressing his satisfaction at the course he had pursued, invited him to call at his house on his way home. After some hesitation Thomas and Nancy consented, the latter being exceedingly pleased at being invited again to call on Hannah Stevens.

As William opened the door, Hannah rose from her seat by the cradle, and glanced first at her husband, and then at his companions with a look of astonishment and inquiry, which yielded, however, to one of kind welcome and glad surprise when her husband said, "I have brought you some friends, Hannah." "Yes," said Thomas, "and may we henceforth merit the title." Nancy hung down her head as if ashamed of the thoughts that were passing through her

mind. Hannah, noticing her appearance, feared she did not sympathize in her husband's feelings. I must encourage the poor woman, thought she, or her husband will be undone. If Nancy does not encourage him by her example all will be lost.

The company then seated themselves round the cheerful fire, and while Thomas and William were engaged in conversation, Hannah threw aside the quilt, to let Nancy see the baby. It was just the age of her own; but oh! how different. The rosy, healthy little creature before her in its clean nightgown, recalled to her mind her own pale, sickly, neglected child at home, in its ragged dirty dress, so seldom changed, and tears started into her eyes at the recollection. Hannah saw the effect produced upon her feelings, and wishing to increase it still more, asked her to walk into her bed-room to see her other children. Hannah was a kind, careful mother, and, knowing the strength of a mother's love, she wished to make use of this strong principle to recall the wretched wanderer before her to a sense of duty.

Nor was she disappointed at the success of her experiment. Nancy was evidently affected at the neat, comfortable appearance of her neighbour's house, and Hannah seized this opportunity to point out to her her dreadful neglect of duty. It was a kind, but a faithful reproof, calculated to awaken in her bosom every feeling of a mother that yet remained,

Nancy did not leave the room until she had promised, by her own example, to encourage her husband to return to the uniform practice of sobriety. Thomas and his wife then took leave of their kind neighbours.

We will leave this happy fire-side, and accompany Thomas and Nancy to their desolate home. As they approached the house the faint cries of the neglected baby first struck on the parents' ears. Poor Mary, as usual, was endeavouring to quiet the little sufferer. There was no fire upon the hearth, and no light upon the table; but the moonbeams through the changing clouds were sufficient to reveal the gloom and wretchedness of the drunkard's home. Thomas and Nancy could not but perceive the contrast between the home they had just left and their own. It was a contrast most sad and humiliating.

Early the next morning the first person the family saw coming down the lane was little William Stevens. He had in his hand a basket of potatoes, which his father had sent to Thomas Millman, with a request that he would call at his workshop after he had eaten his breakfast. The unexpected present gave much joy to this destitute family, and Mary with her little brothers will not soon forget how acceptable were their roast potatoes that morning, though eaten without butter or salt.

Thomas called as he was requested at William Stevens's

workshop, and found there a job which would employ him for a day or two. It was joyfully and speedily undertaken, and after an industrious day's work he received at the close a part of his wages, to lay out in food for his family. Thomas had little to struggle with this day, and on the whole it passed by easily and pleasantly. Not so with poor Nancy. Having less to employ her mind than her husband, she was sorely tempted more than once to send Mary to exchange what remained of her kind neighbour's gift for rum, *only a little*. But the thought of Hannah's kindness, and her own promise so solemnly made, restrained her.

At last the day had passed, and it was time for Thomas to return. As soon as the children saw him enter the lane, they ran, as was their custom, to their hiding-place; for knowing nothing of what had recently taken place, they expected to find him intoxicated, as usual. Can that be father? whispered they to each other, as they heard a steady step and calm voice. The youngest boy peeped out his head to see.

“Come here, my poor boy,” said Thomas kindly, “you needn't be afraid, I am not drunk!” “He isn't drunk,” said Jemmy, clapping his hands in great joy; “come out, children, father won't hurt you.” Half faithless, half believing, the children left their hiding-place, and came around their father.

“ Mother hasn’t sent you for any rum to-day — has she, Mary ? ” “ No father ; I hope I never shall go to that shop again.” “ You never shall, to buy rum, Mary, I promise you. Do you believe me ? ” Mary looked as if she did not quite believe ; but said nothing.

A year has passed by since the period when our history commenced. It is a fine April morning, as it then was. The children of the village are pursuing their way to school as pleasantly as they then were. But where is the little girl with dirty face, tattered dress, and bare feet, who then attracted our attention ? Look for one of the happiest girls among that gay, laughing group, and you will find her. Her dirty, tattered garments are exchanged for neat and comfortable ones, her bare feet are covered with tidy shoes and stockings, and in her hand she carries, not a bottle, but a basket containing her school-books and work. The scenes through which this day will carry her will be very different from those through which she passed a year ago.

A great and blessed change has indeed come over this once wretched family. They have left the miserable habitation which was once theirs, and are now living upon a small but excellent farm, whose owner is not afraid to let it to such sober and industrious people as Thomas and Nancy have become. Within the year Thomas has been able to purchase comfortable clothing for his family, and decent furniture for

his house ; and has besides partly paid for a team of horses, and four cows.

Look at Thomas at work in his field and managing his little farm, thriving at home and respected abroad, and say what would tempt him to come again under the influence of his former ruinous habits. Look at Nancy, too, superintending her dairy and supplying the wants of her family—does she wish for a return of those days when she was the intemperate mother of hungry, neglected children ?

Dear reader, the narrative of truth which is here given is not intended as a lesson for you ; you are too pure to require such warning ; neither is it intended for the wise and good parent or friend who has given you this book, for their appreciation of it tells the reverse ; but it is meant early to impress upon your minds the dreadful consequences of intemperance to body, mind, and estate, that you may in future years use your influence to prevent those who are falling into this seductive vice.



B O G N O R.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

BOGNOR.

THE situation of Bognor is truly pleasant, the town being built on a dry healthy spot, remarkable for the purity of its air, and within a quarter of a mile from the sea, from which there is an extensive and grand view of the main ocean, and the Isle of Wight; and the eye is at the same time presented with views of a rich and fertile inland country, commanding the Surrey and Sussex hills, with distant views of Chichester, Stanstead, Goodwood, Slindon, and Arundel.

The smoothness of the sand reminds the visitor of a velvet carpet, and invitingly draws him to the sea-side, while the straight line of the coast, and its gentle slope into the channel, enable him to take his walk without the least risk of interruption from the waves.

Bognor owes its origin as a watering-place to the late Sir Richard Hotham, who, in 1786, accidentally visiting this spot, then inhabited only by fishermen and smugglers, conceived such an attachment to it, that, making several purchases of land, he began early in the following year to erect a house for his own occasional residence, and during the remainder of

his life he built very extensively, and made many improvements. This Sir Richard Hotham was originally a hatter, in the borough of Southwark, and increased his business by an extraordinary scheme. Instead of issuing shop-bills, as is customary, he had his name and business engraved upon pieces of copper, about the size of a halfpenny, which he sent all over the town and to different parts of the kingdom.

This durable document attracted notice, and its whimsical originality induced many persons to employ him. It was always his rule to have the best goods that could be procured, so that a new customer generally became an old one. After having carried on the hat business many years, and amassed a considerable fortune, he ventured into the commercial world, and particularly into the property of shipping for the East India Company. Being a man of sound judgment, with a mind directed towards speculation, he in time acquired a considerable fortune.

Sir Richard was knighted in consequence of presenting an address at St. James's, on the birth of a prince. Though constantly attentive to his own interests, Sir Richard was capable of generous actions, and many young men whom he patronised were indebted to him for their promotion by the East India Company.



GEORDIE AND THE SICK DOG.

IT was Saturday afternoon, which had been longed for all the week by little Geordie, as he was called, for he was a very little fellow. Geordie had built himself a boat, and had promised to give it a fine sail in a pond not a great way from the house in which he lived.

So away he went before he had quite eaten his dinner, with his boat in one hand and the remains of a slice of bread

and butter in the other, for his mother was a poor woman, and Geordie did not get meat every day, and never on a Saturday.

But his cheeks were rosy and his eye was bright, and his curling hair waved in the wind as he ran along, looking at his boat with eyes of delight all the way, and every now and then taking a huge mouthful, and then stopping for breath, for fear the dry crumbs should be blown down his throat.

There was a beautiful breeze, as he called it—for he called every thing beautiful that pleased him. He had a beautiful piece of bread and butter, and a beautiful knife, and a beautiful pair of shoes, only his toes peeped through them.

He had a kind, cheerful, and tender heart, and so every thing appeared beautiful to him, and few things had the power to make him discontented or peevish; but just as Geordie got over the hills which led to the place of his destination he saw Harry Dyke, the groom at the great house of Lady Clover, coming over the green, with several of the boys of the village dancing about him, apparently in great delight.

When he came near, he found that Harry was carrying, wrapped up in a piece of an old sack, a little dog, which Geordie recognised as being one which he had before seen with its two fore-paws leaning over the ledge of the window

in Lady Clover's carriage when she drove through the village.

One of the boys had got a couple of brickbats and a long piece of cord, and seemed very officious. He called out to Harry, "Harry, let me throw him in, will you? — there's a good fellow. But won't you give him a knock on the head? — just one knock to make him stupid!"

"Why they are going to drown that little pet-dog that we used to say lived a great deal better than we did; and when I have been very hungry I have often wished I was Lady Clover's lap-dog, for I heard say that she sometimes gave it rump-steak for dinner, with oyster sauce!"

So thought little Geordie to himself; he did not, however, say any thing.

"Oh, here is little Geordie!" said one of the boys. "Geordie! Geordie! come and have some sport; we are going to drown a dog!"

"What are you going to drown it for?" said Geordie.

"Oh, to have some fun, I suppose! No, it is not that; it is because my lady can't bear the nasty thing; it has got some disorder. There—do not touch it!"

The poor little dog looked at Geordie, and struggled to get out of the sacking, and gave a whine, as if it would be glad to get away from its enemies.

"Lie down, you beast," said Harry, as he gave it a severe

blow on the head. "Lie down. I'll soon settle your business!"

By this time they had come to the ditch, and the dog was placed on the ground and taken from the sack in which it was wrapped. It was a deplorable looking creature, and its hair was off in several places. It yelped wofully as it looked around, while the boys began to prepare the noose and the brickbats.

"Oh, do not drown him!" said Geordie. "Pray do not drown him! What are you going to drown him for?"

"Why, because he is sick, and ill, and dirty. He is no good to any one," said Harry. "My lady used to be very fond of him; but now he looks such an object, she says he is to be destroyed."

"Give him to me," said Geordie. "I'll have him and keep him till he gets well—he shall have half my dinner every day. Here, little dog, have this piece of bread and butter."

"Go away and leave the dog alone," said the boy who had the cord. "You are not going to spoil our sport!—get out of the way with you." And so he drew near and fastened the cord to the dog's neck.

"Oh, do give him to me! Pray don't drown him!" said Geordie. "Pray do not. Oh, do give him to me! I will make him well—indeed I will. Do let me have him—

there's a good Harry Dyke;" and the tears came into Geordie's eyes.

"Go along, Mr. Dog Doctor," said Harry; "go along, Mr. Cry Baby."

"Here, Harry, I'll give you my boat for the little dog: it's a beautiful boat; here, put it into the water instead of the dog — do! do! do!" And so Geordie thrust the boat into Harry's hand, and, without waiting to settle the bargain, laid hold of the dog.

"Leave go of him," said the boy with the cord and brickbats; "leave go, I tell you; if you do not it shall be the worse for you. Leave go, or — —"

"Ay, you may rap my knuckles," said Geordie; "I do not mind that."—"Harry Dyke! Harry Dyke! am I to have the dog and you have the boat?" said he, struggling violently.

"Oh, I do not care about it," said Harry; "take him, if you will have him: the boat will do for my brother Tom; and I wish you joy of the bargain."

The other boys hearing this were very much disconcerted, and would, no doubt, have molested Geordie still further, but the little fellow no sooner heard Harry's consent than he immediately set off at full speed, with the dog under his arm, in the direction of home.

When he reached his home he was quite out of breath,

and his mother was fearful that something had happened to him.

“ Why, Geordie! Geordie! what is the matter with you? and what have you got under your arm? ”

Geordie laid down the dog, and the sight of the poor creature, whose looks told the state of disease in which it was, made the poor woman quite afraid to have it in the house; and, without hearing any of the circumstances connected with the poor animal, or giving Geordie time to explain, she declared it should not set foot in the house, and drove Geordie and his purchase out of it together; telling him to take it from whence it came, and that the house was not to be converted into a hospital for sick dogs.

Geordie was more disconsolate than ever; he went into the fields with the dog under his arm — now he laid it down and patted it, then he talked to it, and in his childish manner tried to comfort it. The poor creature looked up to him, and wagged its tail, and seemed quite glad to find somebody could feel for it.

What to do with the dog Geordie knew not; at last, however, he bethought himself that he would take him up into a little loft over a small stable, which his father had, and there make him a bed with some nice hay, and try to make him better.

So he mounted the ladder and into the loft, and soon

made the poor thing a bed, and then he thought he would get him something to eat; but Geordie had no money. He had, however, a great many marbles, for Geordie was a capital hand at ring-taw, and so he took his marble bag, and went to the green, where several boys were playing, and very soon sold his marbles. They produced fourpence, for there were more than fifty at sixteen a penny.

He then bought some dog's meat, and a half-pennyworth of sulphur to mix with some milk, for somebody once said in his hearing that sulphur and milk were good physic for dogs.

He then washed the animal and fed him; and what with washing, and physicking, and comforting, in a few days the poor dog regained his strength, and in a few days more he regained his coat; and it was not many days more before he was as well as ever.

Geordie then ventured to bring him in to his father and mother, who seeing the animal quite changed in appearance, and a lively, handsome little dog, and not very old, were quite pleased with him, and no less pleased with their son's conduct when it was all explained to them.

Some weeks after this, Lady Clover came through the village in her carriage, as usual, and was astonished to behold her little dog sitting with his fore paws out of Geordie's mother's parlour window, just as he used to sit up in her ladyship's carriage.

Lady Clover alighted and went towards the house. The dog immediately began to bark ; nor would the soft tones of the lady's voice by any means pacify him. In a few minutes she learned the whole of her former pet's history, and wished to have him again. She would give Geordie five shillings for him, she said ; but Geordie would not sell his dog.

"No, I thank you, my lady." "Bow-wow-wow," said the little dog. "He might be sick again, my lady, and then he would be drowned, my lady." "Bow-wow-wow-wow-wow-wow."

"Keep the tiresome creature quiet," said her ladyship, "and hear me." "Bow-wow-wow-wow-wow-wow-wow," said the little dog.

Her ladyship could not obtain a hearing, and left the cottage in high displeasure. "I would not sell him for his weight in gold," said Geordie to himself.

It was some years after this that Geordie grew almost a man ; and Chloe, for that was the dog's name, grew old ; Geordie's father had prospered in life, and from being a poor cottager had become a respectable farmer.

One night he returned from market with a considerable sum of money, arising from the sale of his crops, the principal part of which he had to pay away to his landlord in a few days.

Some evil-disposed fellows had obtained a knowledge of

this money being in the house, and determined to break in and rob it; perhaps also to murder those who might oppose them.

It was a very dark night, and all were soundly asleep, when a notorious character and two of his companions approached on tip-toe, to make an entrance into the back premises.

By means of a centre-bit they had soon cut a panel out of the wash-house door. They then entered the kitchen without making the least noise. The leader had a large carving-knife in one hand, and a dark lantern in the other; and, supposing the money to be in the bed-room, was mounting the stairs to take it at any hazard.

The stairs creaked with the weight of the robber, and in a moment Chloe aroused the whole house with her barking — her shrill voice was heard in every room. In a moment Geordie was up, and his father's blunderbuss at his shoulder.

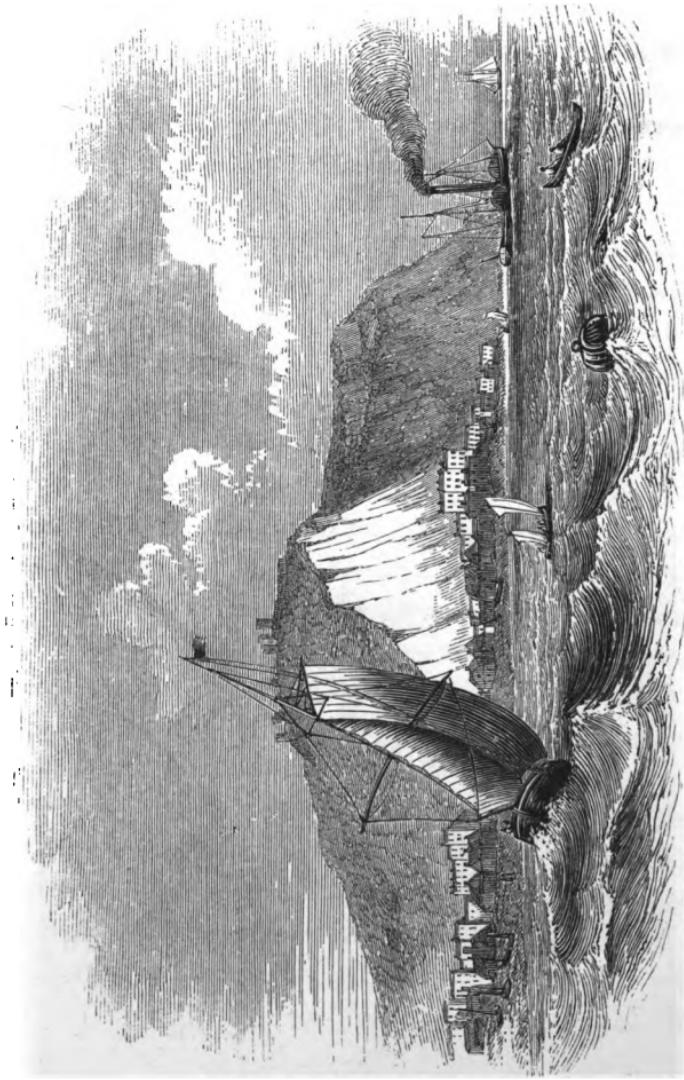
“ Speak, or I will fire ! ” said he. No answer; but a scampering through the passage. Geordie followed — he heard the robbers making their escape; he fired — the robber fell.

Lights were procured. It was found that the fellow was only slightly wounded in the leg, which prevented his running away. In the morning it was discovered who the robber was — it was the very boy, now grown a man, who had had the cord and the brickbats to drown poor Chloe.

Chloe did not live long after this ; but died of sheer old age : not, however, you see, till she had amply repaid the kindness which had been bestowed upon her by Geordie.

Learn from this, my little readers, a lesson of humanity, and early cultivate kindly feelings towards all creatures, especially when you see them in adversity : it will soften your hearts, render you beloved by all who know you, and prepare you for that happy state of existence which words cannot describe.





HASTINGS.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

HASTINGS.

THE valley in which the town of Hastings is built forms a spacious and beautiful amphitheatre, of an oval form, sloping to the south ; the houses and gardens rise gradually to the east, and the hills to the north.

It has great interest from its historical associations, since here was fought the famous battle between Harold King of England and William Duke of Normandy, on the 14th of October, 1066, in which Harold was defeated and killed, and by his death, William, surnamed The Conqueror, became King of England. The night before the battle, the aspect of things was very different in the two camps. The English, we are told, spent the time in riot and disorder, the Normans in prayers and other duties of religion.

In the morning the Duke divided his army into three lines. The first consisted of archers and light-armed infantry ; the second was composed of his bravest battalions, heavy armed, and ranged in close order ; his cavalry, at whose head he placed himself, formed the third line, and were so disposed that they stretched beyond the infantry, and flanked each wing of the army.

He ordered the signal of battle to sound, and the whole army moved at once, singing the hymn or song of Roland, the famous peer of Charlemagne, and advanced in order and with alacrity towards the enemy. The result, which is well known, changed the destiny of England.

Hastings is now one of the most favourite places of resort during the summer season, there being excellent accommodation for bathing, as also various places of amusement.

The country around abounds with a variety of pleasant walks and rides, the sea view being most novel to strangers. About six miles from Hastings stands the pretty little village of Bexhill; and on the white rock a little beyond are the remains of a ruin on the edge of a cliff, supposed to have been St. Leonard's Chapel.

About a quarter of a mile further on, at a place called "The Old Woman's Tap," is the rock on which it is supposed William the Conqueror dined after his landing. It hangs over a pool of water, and still retains the name of "The Conqueror's Table."

Hastings is one of the Cinque Ports, and had once a large castle, the ruins only of which now remain. The chief trade is in the fishery, and in the building of boats and small vessels for the coasting trade.



SOCIABLE GROSBEAKS, OR BUILDER BIRDS.

FOR the comfort and happiness of all people it is necessary to devote ourselves to different trades. One spends his time in one trade, and another in another. In like manner we find the various kinds of birds occupied in different trades. The

woodpecker may be called a carpenter, the hawk a sportsman, the heron a fisherman. But in these cases we may remark that the birds do not serve an apprenticeship. It takes a boy seven years to learn to be a carpenter; but a young woodpecker as soon as he can fly goes to his work, without a single lesson, and yet understands it perfectly.

This is very wonderful; but God teaches the birds their lessons, and his teaching is perfect. Perhaps the most mechanical among birds are the Sociable Weavers, found in the southern part of Africa. Hundreds of these in one community join to form a structure of interwoven grass (the sort chosen being what is called Boshman's grass), containing various apartments, all covered by a sloping roof, impenetrable to the heaviest rain, and extended year by year as the increase in the number of the community may require.

“I observed,” says a celebrated traveller in South Africa, “a tree with an enormous nest of birds, to which I have given the appellation of Republicans; and as soon as I arrived at my camp, I despatched a few men with a waggon to bring it to me, that I might open the hive, and examine the structure in its minutest parts. When it arrived I cut it to pieces with a hatchet, and saw the chief portion of the structure consisted of a mass of Boshman's grass, without any mixture; but so compact and firmly woven together, as to be impenetrable to the rain. This is the commencement of the

structure, and each bird builds its particular nest under the canopy ; the upper surface remaining void, without, however, being useless, for as it has a projecting rim, and is a little inclined downwards, it serves to let the water run off, and preserves each little dwelling from the rain.

“ The nest that I examined was one of the most considerable I had any where seen in the course of my journey, and contained three hundred and twenty inhabited cells ; which, supposing a male and female to each, would form a society of six hundred and forty individuals. Such a calculation, however, would not be exact. It appears that in every flock the females are more numerous than the males ; many cells, therefore, would only contain a single bird ; still the total number would be considerable, and when undisturbed they might go on to increase, the structure increasing in like ratio, till a storm sweeping over the plain should lay the tree and the edifice it sustained, from their enormous size, in one common ruin.

“ The singular nests of these birds are constructed on a species of mimosa which grows to an uncommon size, and seems well suited to them on account of its full and wide-spreading branches.

THE GRATEFUL CHINESE.

WHAT is prejudice? Many young people practise prejudice without knowing its name, especially those young people who do not think. There are prejudices against persons, prejudices against insects, prejudices against food, and prejudices against nations. When we have a prejudice against persons, it means that we dislike them without good reason — we fancy that they are deceitful, or dishonest, or that they have some other fault, of which we are not certain. We often call an insect a nasty ugly thing; but if we were to take it up we should be filled with admiration, both of the Creator and the creature; we should see indescribable beauties and wonders. This is a prejudice.

We often look at food when it comes to table, and set ourselves against it without ever having tasted it, and thus render ourselves uncomfortable, and also those around us — this also is prejudice.

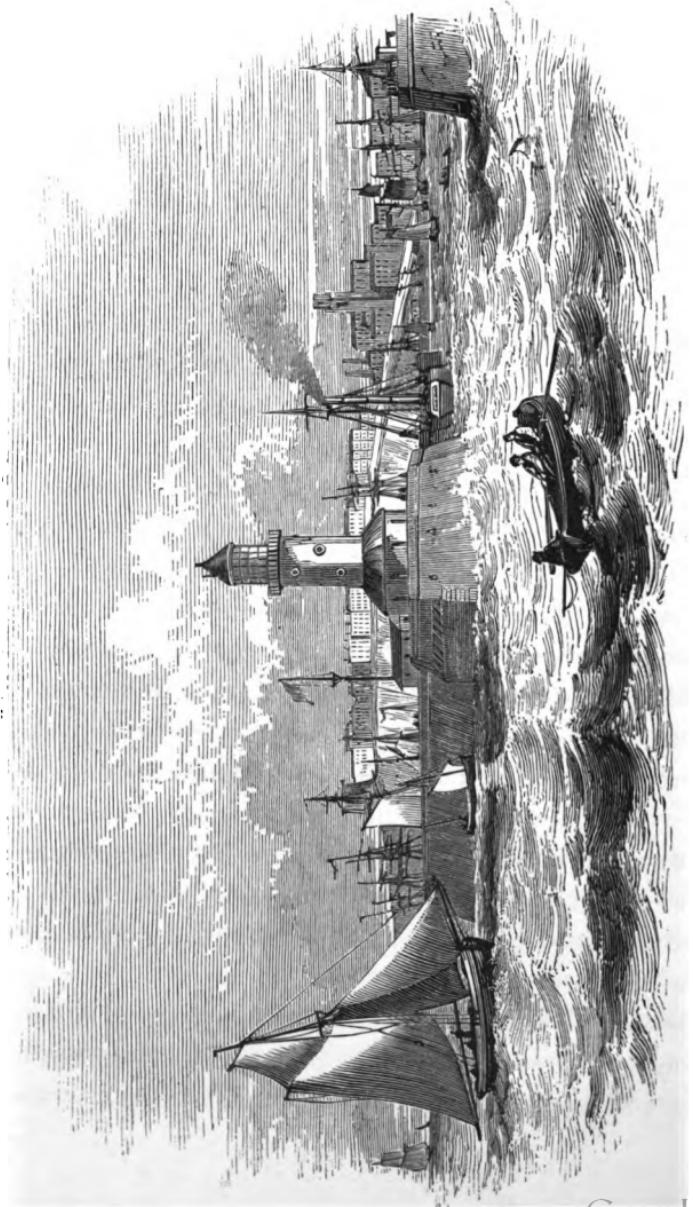
We often hear or read of persons of some other nation who have done some act of wrong, which calls forth our displeasure, and we, without thinking, conclude that all the persons of that nation have similar dispositions. We perhaps abuse the French, or the Dutch, or the Russians, or the Chinese, and think there can be no goodness amongst them; this is what may be called national prejudice.

This is not a fault of English people alone; other nations have prejudices against us. The Chinese, for instance, call us barbarians, which means to say that we are greatly inferior to them. We often hear accounts of Chinese wickedness, and of Chinese folly, because most of us are fond of seeking for what is wonderful; but we seldom hear of Chinese virtue, so I will tell you a little tale of virtue in a Chinese, and virtue in an Englishman; by which I shall show you that it may exist in a Chinese, as well as in an Englishman.

This Englishman resided many years at Canton, and was highly respected by all who knew him: he was successful in commerce, and became very rich; but sudden misfortunes befell him, and from being very rich he became very poor. While he was rich he had an opportunity of befriending a Chinese who was poor but honest, and by his means the Chinese became very rich. Now it sometimes happens that persons who have received benefits from others forget in the days of their prosperity from whom they received the goods they enjoy; but this was not the case with this Chinese: he saw his benefactor reduced, and gratefully offered him the loan of ten thousand dollars, a sum equal to two thousand pounds, which the gentleman accepted, giving his bond for the amount as a security for the repayment. The Chinese received the bond from his hand, and immediately threw it into the fire, saying, "When you, my friend, first came to

China I was a poor man,—you took me by the hand, and, assisting my honest endeavours, made me rich. Our lot is now reversed: I see you poor, while I am blest with riches.” While this conversation was passing, those who were in the room, and belonging to the family of the Chinese, had snatched the bond from the flames; and the English gentleman, deeply moved by such generosity, pressed his Chinese friend to take the security, which having done, he effectually destroyed it. He then said he would accept of his watch, or any other little thing of value, as a memorial of their friendship. The English gentleman immediately presented his watch; and the Chinese in return gave an old iron seal, saying, “Take this seal: it is one I have long used, and possesses no intrinsic value; but as you are going to India to look after your outstanding concerns, should ill fortune still attend you, draw upon me for any sum of money you may stand in need of, seal the draft with this signet, sign it with your own hand, and I will pay the money.”

Now, my young readers, this is not a fable—it is not an untruth—it is a well-known fact; and it is not a solitary instance of virtue to be found among the Chinese. Instances of deep gratitude, strong affection, great honesty, and unflinching courage, are to be met with amongst the Chinese, as well as amongst the people of our own favoured island.



RAMSGATE.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

RAMSGATE

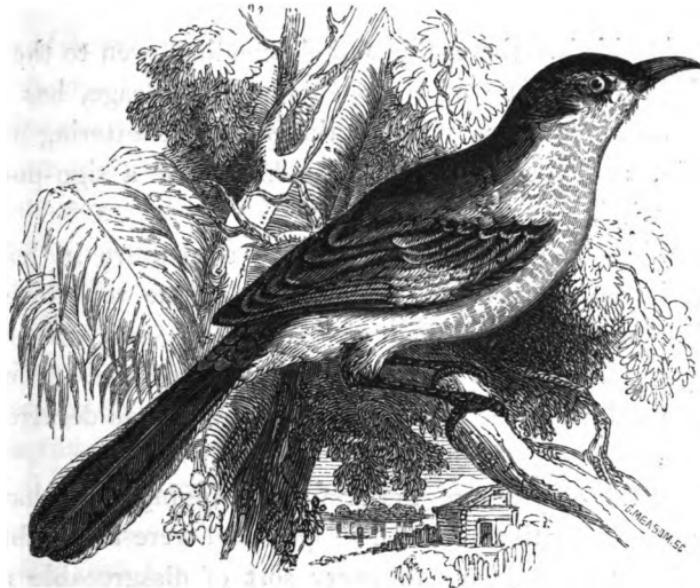
WAS anciently a poor fishing town, consisting of a few meanly-built houses on the coast of the Isle of Thanet, which here fronts the south-east; it had a small wooden pier. After the revolution of 1688 some of the inhabitants engaged in the Russian trade, by which they acquired wealth, and this led to the improvement of the town.

When the practice became general for families from London and elsewhere to resort to the sea-side, Ramsgate was one of the earliest frequented spots, though for some time eclipsed by the superior attractions of Margate. The improvement of the harbour, by the erection of the piers and other works in the middle and latter part of the last century, gave another impulse to the prosperity of the town. Early in the present century a stone light-house was erected on the head of the west pier, and a small battery is fixed at the head of the east pier.

The east pier is one of the longest in the kingdom, extending 2000 feet. The western pier is about half that length. These piers are built of Portland and Purbeck stone, and

Cornish granite, and form a fine promenade. The harbour includes an area of 48 acres, and furnishes a convenient shelter for vessels which are obliged by heavy gales to run in from the Downs. It is provided with a basin and flood-gates in the upper part of the harbour, for scouring it from the drifted sand or mud.

The old part of Ramsgate is situated in one of those natural depressions (called in the Isle of Thanet "gates or stairs,") in the chalk, which open upon the sea. This part of the town is low, compared with the higher parts on each side of it. The streets are, in the old part of the town, narrow and indifferently built. The newer part of the town, from its elevated site on the cliffs, commands an extensive sea-view, and consists of several streets, macadamised and lighted with gas. Many of the houses are very handsome. Some are arranged in streets, terraces, or crescents, while others are detached villas. A considerable number of houses have been built within the last four or five years. There are likewise bathing rooms and assembly rooms.



THE MOCKING BIRD.

THIS capricious little mimic, of which the above wood cut is an exact representation, is common throughout nearly the whole of North America, as well as in several of the West Indian islands. It cannot indeed vie with the feathered inhabitants of those countries in brilliancy of plumage; but it can lay claim to much more rare and attractive characteristics. It possesses not only natural notes of its own, which are truly musical and solemn, but it can at pleasure assume the tone of every other animal in the forest, from the

humming-bird to the eagle, and descending even to the wolf or the raven. One of them, confined in a cage, has been heard to mimic the mewing of the cat, the chattering of the magpie, and the creaking of the hinges of a sign-post in a high wind.

The Mocking Bird seems to have a pleasure in leading other birds astray. He is said at one time to allure the smaller birds with the call of their mates, and, when they come, to terrify them with the scream of an eagle. There is scarcely a bird of the forest that is not at times deceived by his call.

He is the only one of the American singing birds that can be compared with those of Europe ; and were it not for the attention that he pays to every sort of disagreeable noise which tends to debase his best notes, there can be little doubt that he would be fully equal to the song of the nightingale in its whole compass. He frequents the dwellings of the American farmers, and when sitting on the roof, or chimney, he sometimes pours forth the most sweet and varied notes imaginable. The Mexicans, on account of his various notes and his imitative powers, call him "The bird of four hundred tongues." In the warm parts of America he sings incessantly from March to August, both day and night, beginning with his own compositions, and frequently finishing by borrowing from those of the whole feathered choir. He repeats his

tunes with such perfect sweetness, as to excite both pleasure and surprise.

It is not, however, in the powers of voice alone that these birds are pleasing ; they may even be said to dance, for when excited into a kind of ecstasy by their own music, they gradually raise themselves from the place where they stand, and with their wings extended drop with their heads to the same spot, and whirl round, accompanying their melody with a variety of interesting gesticulations.

They frequently build their nests in bushes, or fruit-trees, in the vicinity of houses ; but they are so shy, that if a person only look at the nest they immediately forsake it. The younger ones may be brought up in a cage, and rendered domestic, but this cannot be done without great difficulty, not one attempt in ten being successful for that purpose. If the young ones are caught in the nest, the mother will feed them for a few days, but is sure to desert them afterwards. If a cat happens to approach the nest, the parent bird will fly at the head of the animal, and with a hissing noise scare it away.

The Mocking Bird feeds its young ones with grasshoppers, and when it wants any of these insects it flies into the pastures, flaps its wings near the ground, and takes a body of three or four at a time, with which it returns to the nest. It also feeds on different kinds of berries, and is itself eaten by the Americans, who account it very delicate food.

STORY OF A SUPPOSED MISER.

IN the country called France there is the large city of Marseilles. In this place there once lived a man named Guizot. He was always busy, and seemed very anxious to get money.

He was poorly clad, and his food was of the simplest and cheapest kind. He lived alone, and denied himself all the luxuries and also many of the comforts of life.

He was honest and faithful, never taking that which was not his own, and always performed his promises; yet the people of Marseilles thought he was a miser, and they held him in great contempt. As he passed along the streets the rich man looked on him with scorn, and the poor hissed and hooted at him. Even the boys would cry out, "There goes old Skinflint!"

But the old man bore all this insult with gentleness and patience. Day by day he went to his labour, and day by day as he passed through the crowd he was saluted with taunts, and sneers, and reproaches.

Thus time passed on, and poor Guizot was now more than eighty years of age; but he still continued the same persevering industry—still lived in the same simple, saving manner as before.

Though he was now bent almost double, and though his hair was thin and white as snow—though his knees tottered as he went along the streets, still the rude jokes and hisses of the people pursued him wherever he went.

But at length the old man died; and it was ascertained that he had gathered together, in gold and silver, a sum equal to five hundred dollars. On looking over his papers his will was found, in which were the following words:—

“ I was once poor, and I observed that the poor people of Marseilles suffered very much for the want of pure water: I have devoted my life to the saving of a sum of money sufficient to build an aqueduct to supply the city of Marseilles with it, so that the poor may have a full supply.”

The foregoing narrative is a forcible lesson to us not to censure others without a cause. We often pass remarks on our neighbours, and wish to pry into their affairs, when we have no right whatever to do so. We pronounce them to be mean, or dishonest and wicked, just as it suits our inclination, and we little think how many “supposed misers of Marseilles” there may be among them. It is our duty to allow to every one the privileges we should wish to enjoy ourselves, and so long as the peculiarities, as they are called, of a person do not interfere with the comforts of others, we are bound to act towards him with civility at least.

HOUSE CRICKETS.

THESE busy little insects reside altogether in our dwellings, and intrude themselves on our notice whether we wish it or not. They are partial to houses newly built, for the softness of the mortar enables them without difficulty to form their retreats between the joints of the masonry, and immediately to open communications with the different rooms. They are particularly attached to kitchens and bakehouses, as affording them a constant warmth.

“Tender insects that live abroad,” says Mr. White, “either enjoy only the short period of one summer, or else doze away the cold uncomfortable months in profound slumbers; but these, residing as it were in a torrid zone, are always alert and merry: a good Christmas fire is to them what the heat of the dog-days is to others.”

Though they are frequently heard by day, yet their natural time of motion is only at night. As soon as it becomes dusk the chirping increases, and they come running forth, and are often to be seen in great numbers, from the size of a flea to that of their full stature.

As one would suppose, from the burning atmosphere which they inhabit, they are a thirsty race, and show a great pro-

pensity for liquids, being frequently found dead in pans of warm milk, broth, or the like. Whatever is moist they are fond of, and therefore they often gnaw holes in wet woollen stockings and aprons that are hung at the fire. House Crickets are not only very thirsty, but very voracious, for they will eat the skimmings of pots, yeast, salt, and crumbs of bread, and kitchen offal or sweepings of almost every description.

In the summer they have been observed to fly, when it becomes dusk, out of the window and over the neighbouring roofs. This feat of activity accounts for the sudden manner in which they often leave their haunts, as it does also for the method by which they come to houses where they were not known before. It is remarkable that many kinds of insects seem never to use their wings but when they wish to shift their quarters, and settle new colonies. When in the air they move in waves or curves, like woodpeckers, opening and shutting their wings at every stroke, and thus they are always rising or sinking. When their numbers increase to a great degree, they become annoying, flying into the candles, and dashing into people's faces.

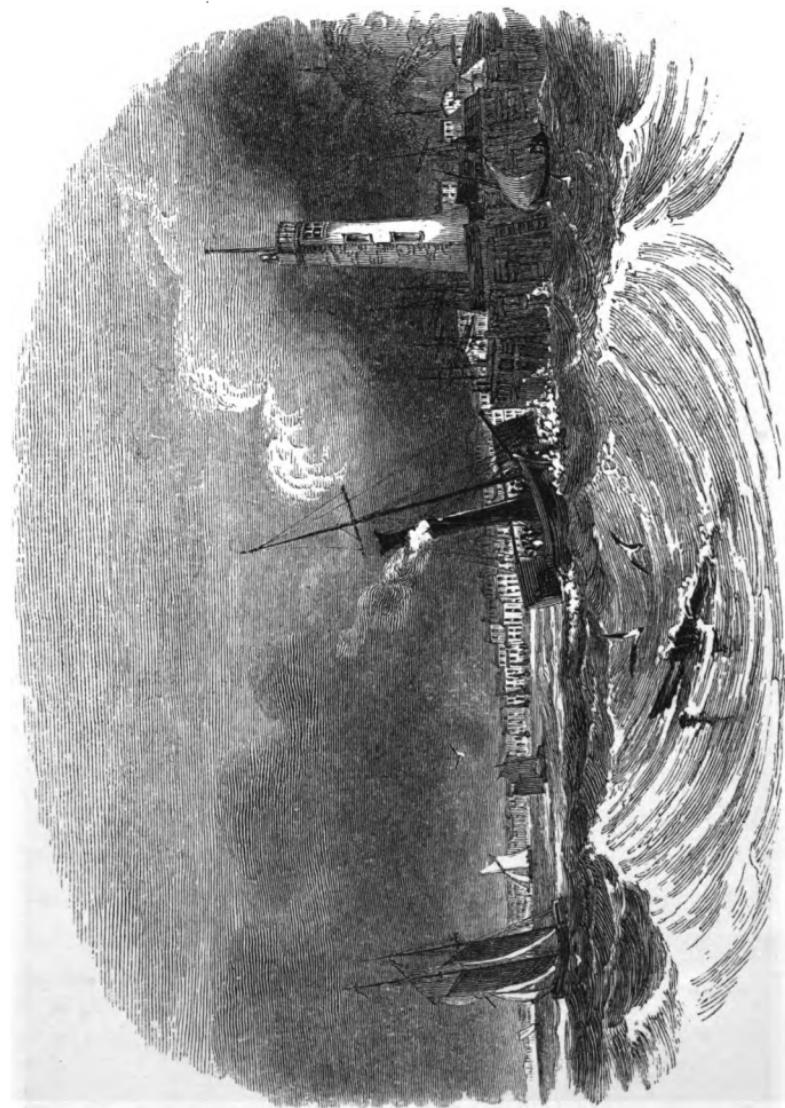
Cats catch Crickets, and after playing with them as they do with mice, devour them. Crickets may be destroyed like wasps, by phials half-filled with beer, or any liquid, and set in their haunts; for being always eager to drink, they will

crowd in till the bottles are full. A popular prejudice, however, frequently prevents any attempt at their destruction, many people imagining that their presence is attended with *good luck*, and that to kill or drive them away will bring some misfortune on the family!

When these insects are running about a room in the dark, if they be surprised by a candle they give two or three shrill notes, which seem a signal to their fellows, that they may escape to their crannies and lurking holes, for the purpose of avoiding danger.

It is said in some parts of Africa persons make a trade of Crickets. They feed them in a kind of thin iron oven, and sell them to the natives, among whom the noise they make is thought pleasing. These people imagine that it assists in lulling to sleep.

The organ that produces this noise is a membrane, which in contracting, by means of a muscle and tendon placed under the wings of the insect, folds down somewhat like a fan. This, as it is always dry, yields by its motion a sharp and piercing sound. The noise may even be heard after the insect is dead, if the tendon be made to move. It is said that Crickets will live, and even continue their accustomed noise, for some time after their heads are cut off.



SCARBOROUGH.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

SCARBOROUGH

Is situated in the recess of a beautiful bay, on the borders of the German Ocean, in almost a central position between Whitby and Flamborough Head. The town rises from the shore in the form of an amphitheatre, and has a picturesque appearance on the concave slope of its semicircular bay.

To the east stand the ruins of the ancient castle, whose venerable walls adorn the summit of a lofty promontory. To the south is a vast expanse of the ocean, a scene of the highest magnificence, where fleets of ships are frequently passing. The recess of the tide leaves a spacious area upon the sands, delicately smooth and firm, equally convenient for exercise and sea-bathing. The refreshing gales from the ocean, and the shade of the neighbouring hills, give an agreeable temperature to the air during the sultry heats of summer, and produce a grateful serenity.

The celebrated mineral waters of Scarborough have rendered the town a place of resort for the nobility and gentry, who repair thither for the sake both of pleasure and health.

No part of the British coast affords more convenience for bathing. The bay is spacious and open to the sea, and the water pure and transparent. The sand is clear, smooth, and level, and the inclination towards the sea scarcely perceptible.

Unlike many watering places Scarborough is a town of considerable antiquity. In the year 1252 Henry III. granted a patent for making a new pier at Scardeburg, and in one of the charters of that prince, mention is repeatedly made of the new town in contradistinction to the old. The piers for the security of the shipping seem to date their origin from the time of Henry II., who in the thirty-sixth year of his reign, A. D. 1252, granted to the bailiffs, burgesses, and inhabitants of Scarborough certain duties, to be taken during the space of five years on all merchant ships and fishing vessels, in order to enable them "to make a new port with timber and stone."

SOMETHING ABOUT ROOKS.

It is a pleasant thing to have a companion when we are walking in the country, and to meet an acquaintance in every object surrounding us. Some people walk or ride for miles through the country, amidst all the beauties and wonders of nature, and see nothing! and remind us forcibly of the excellent little book called "Eyes and no Eyes." Many young people when they see those black-looking gentlemen called rooks, in a field or on the tall elm trees, feel no other interest in them than the pleasure of throwing a stone to hit them *if they can*. But it is far more gratifying to learn something of the private and public life of such gentry, and a better feeling may in consequence exist.

Besides insects, rooks feed on different kinds of grain: thus causing some inconvenience to the farmer, but this seems greatly repaid by the good they do to him in extirpating the maggots of some of the most destructive insects of the beetle tribe. In Suffolk, and in some parts of Norfolk, the farmers find it to their interest to encourage the breed of rooks, as the only means of freeing the ground from the grub which produces the cockchafer, and which, in this state, destroys the roots of corn and grass "to such a degree,"

says Mr. Stillingfleet, one of the most accurate observers of nature which this country ever produced, "that I have myself seen a piece of pasture land where you might turn up the turf with your foot." An intelligent farmer in Berkshire informed this gentleman, that one year, while his men were hoeing a field of turnips, a great number of rooks alighted in a part of it where they were not at work ; the consequence was a remarkably fine crop in this part, while in the remainder of the field there were scarcely any turnips that year.

These birds are sometimes seen in flocks so great as to darken the air in their flight. They build their nests on high trees close to each other, generally selecting a large clump of the tallest trees for this purpose. When once settled they every year frequent the same place. Rooks are, however, bad neighbours to each other, for they are continually fighting and pulling to pieces each others' nests. These proceedings seem unfavourable to their living in such close community, and yet if a pair offer to build on a separate tree, the nest is plundered and demolished at once. Some unhappy couples are not permitted to finish any nest till all the rest have completed their buildings, for as soon as they arrange a few sticks together a party comes and demolishes the fabric. It generally happens that one of the pair is stationed to keep guard while the other goes about for

materials. From their conduct in these circumstances, the cant word "rooking" for "cheating" originated.

New-comers are often severely beaten by the old inhabitants, and are even frequently driven quite away. A pair of rooks, after an unsuccessful attempt to establish themselves in a rookery, at no great distance from the Exchange at Newcastle, were compelled to abandon the attempt and take refuge on the spire of that building, and though constantly interrupted by other rooks, they built their nest on the top of the vane, and reared their young ones undisturbed by the noise of the populace below them. The nest and its inhabitants were, of course, turned about by every change of the wind, but they returned and built their nest every year on the same place, till the spire was taken down. A remarkable circumstance respecting these birds occurred a short time ago at Dallam Tower, in Westmorland, the seat of Daniel Wilson, Esq. There were two groves adjoining the park, one of which had for many years been the resort of a number of herons that regularly every year built and bred there: in the other was a large rookery. For a long time the two tribes lived very peaceably together. At length the trees of the heronry were cut down, and the young brood perished by the fall of the timber. The parent birds, not willing to be driven from the place, endeavoured to effect a settlement in the rookery. The rooks made an

obstinate resistance, but, after a desperate contest, in the course of which many of the rooks and some of the herons lost their lives, the latter at length succeeded in obtaining possession of some of the trees, and that very spring built their nests afresh. The next season a similar conflict took place, which, like the former, was terminated by the victory of the herons. Since that time peace seems to have been agreed on between them. The rooks have relinquished part of the grove to the herons, to which part alone they confine themselves, and the two communities appear to live together in as much harmony as they did before the dispute.

The following anecdote is related by Dr. Perceval:—"A large colony of rooks had subsisted many years in a grove on the banks of the River Irwell, near Manchester. One serene evening I placed myself within view of it, and marked with attention the various pastimes of this crowded society. The idle members amused themselves with chasing each other through endless mazes, and in their flight they made the air resound with an infinitude of discordant noises. In the midst of these playful excursions it unfortunately happened that one rook, by a sudden turn, struck his beak against the wing of another. The sufferer instantly fell into the river—a general cry of distress ensued. The birds hovered, with every expression of anxiety, over their distressed companion. Animated by their sympathy, and per-

haps by the language of counsel known to themselves, he sprang into the air, and by one strong effort reached the point of a rock which projected into the water. The joy became loud and universal, but, alas! it was soon changed into notes of lamentation, for the poor wounded bird, in attempting to fly towards his nest, again dropped into the river and was drowned, amidst the moans of the whole fraternity."

Rooks have several calls, which, by being blended together by the different individuals in the rookery, produce a pleasing harmony. In cases where the male has to go to a great distance, or is less successful in finding a supply of food, his mate becomes clamorous for his return, and though she does not leave the tree, or even the close vicinity of the nest, she hops restlessly about, and utters an impatient and anxious cry. When the male comes with the supply of food, the cry alters a little — the caw is shorter and not so loud ; but it is more expressive of eagerness. At that time there is no cawing on the part of the male, who glides towards the nest with all the haste he can, and is received by his mate with raised wings and open bill. The feeding is accompanied only by a few short calls ; but when it is over the male gets a song of thanks from the female for the abundance he has brought, and the same song cheers his departure, when he again takes wing.



C. REED & CO.

THE SILKWORM.

THE silkworm is found in a native state on mulberry trees in China and some other Eastern countries, whence in the reign of the Emperor Justinian it was originally introduced into Europe. It has, however, at this time become, in a commercial view, one of the most valuable of insects, affording those delicate and beautiful threads that are afterwards woven into silk, and manufactured into garments, in almost all parts of the world.

In the warmer climates of the East the silkworms are left at liberty upon the trees where they are hatched, and on which they form their cocoons; but in cooler countries where they have been introduced, they are kept in rooms with a south aspect, built for the purpose, and are fed every day with fresh leaves.

The eggs are of a straw colour, and each nearly the size of a pin's head. At its birth the larva or worm is entirely black, and about as long as a small ant, and it remains this colour eight or nine days. The worms are put on wicker-shelves, covered first with paper, and on this with a bed of the most tender of the mulberry leaves. Several ranges are placed in the same chamber, one above another, about a foot and a half apart. The staging for these ranges should be however in the middle of the room, and the shelves not too deep.

The worm continues feeding during eight days after its birth, when it becomes about the fourth of an inch in length: it then experiences a kind of lethargic sleep for three days, during which it casts its skin. It now feeds for about five days, and is considerably increased in size, when a second sickness comes on. In the next ten days it experiences two other attacks, by which time it has attained its full growth, and is then nearly two inches in length and about the thickness of a goose-quill. It then feeds during five days

with a most voracious appetite, after which it refuses food, becomes transparent, with a tinge of yellow, and leaves its silky traces on the leaves that it passes over. These signs denote that it is ready to begin the cocoon in which it is to undergo its change into a chrysalis. The worms are then supplied with little bushes of heath or broom, stuck upright between the shelves: they climb up the twigs, where, after a little while, they begin the foundation of their lodge, and are five days in spinning the cocoon. They generally remain in this state about forty-seven days.

The retreat which they thus form is a cone or ball of silk, spun from two longish bags that lie above the intestines, which are filled with a gummy fluid of a marigold colour. The apparatus with which the worms are furnished for spinning the silky threads that principally compose this bag resembles, in some measure, a wire-drawer's machine, in which gold or silver threads are drawn to any degree of fineness, and through this the animal draws its thread. As every thread proceeds from two gum-bags it is probable that each supplies its own: they, however, are united as they proceed from the animal's body. If we examine the thread with a microscope, it will be found flattened on one side, and grooved along its whole length. Hence we may infer that it is doubled just upon its leaving the body, and that the two

threads stick to each other by the gummy quality they possess.

In a state of nature the silkworm, previously to the spinning of its web, seeks out some convenient place to erect its cell without obstruction. When it has found a leaf or a chink fitted to its purpose it begins to writhe in every direction, and fastens its threads on every side to the sides of its retreat. These being continued, form at length the little oval ball in which it is to undergo its change.

The exterior of the cocoon is composed of a kind of rough cotton-like substance, called floss; within this the thread is more distinct and even, and next to the body of the aurelia the apartment seems lined with a substance of the hardness of paper, but of a much stronger consistence. The thread which composes the cocoon is not rolled regularly round, but lies upon it in a very irregular manner, and winds off first from one side and then from the other.

In the course of six or seven days all the cocoons are generally formed; they are then taken from places where they have been deposited and divided into classes. The best are strong and of a pure unspotted colour. Some are white, and others yellow. Those of a bright yellow yield more silk than the others, but the pale ones are preferred, because they take certain colours better, and because, as they contain less gum than the others, they lose less in boiling.

Five or six days after the cocoon has been detached, the birth of the moth is prevented, as the insect would otherwise pierce the shell and render the cocoon useless. To prevent this, the cocoons are put into long shallow baskets, covered up, and baked for about half an hour in a heat equal to that of an oven from which the bread is just drawn.

After the baking they are disposed, in a proper manner, on wicker shelves, distributed into stories, two or three feet distant from each other.

The whole thread, if measured, will be found about three hundred yards long, and it is so fine that eight or ten threads are generally rolled off into one. For this purpose, the cocoons are put into small coppers or basins of water, each over a small fire. The ends of the threads are found by brushing them over gently with a whisk made for the purpose, and in the winding they are each passed through a hole in a horizontal bar of iron placed at the edge of the basin, which prevents them from becoming entangled.

A fortnight or three weeks generally elapse before the insect within the cocoon is changed into a moth, but no sooner is it completely formed, than, having divested itself of its aurelia skin, it prepares to burst through its prison. For this purpose it extends its head towards the point of the cocoon and gnaws a passage through its cell, small at first, but enlarging as the silkworm increases its efforts for

emancipation. The tattered remnants of its aurelia skin are left in confusion within the cocoon, like a little bundle of dirty linen.

The worm thus set free appears to be exhausted with fatigue, and seems produced for no other purpose than to transmit a future brood. The male dies immediately after its conjunction with the female, and she only survives him till she has laid her eggs, which are to be hatched into worms in the ensuing spring.

In many parts of Italy the inhabitants contrive to have two silk harvests in the year. They keep the eggs in very cool places, and when the mulberry trees (after having been stripped of their leaves for former worms) begin to bud a second time they expose the eggs to be hatched.

During the whole of the time in which the silkworms continue in a worm state the utmost care and attention are required, as they are extremely susceptible of cold, dampness, and unpleasant smells.



C. H. ASHTON, SC.

SOMETHING ABOUT BEES.

THESE insects are very numerous, and differ considerably in their habits. Some of the species are found in extensive communities, which construct, with the utmost art, cells for their offspring, and repositories for their food; while others both dwell and work in solitude. The whole tribe live on the nectar of flowers, and on ripe fruit.

HIVE BEES.

It is difficult to perceive, even with the assistance of glass hives, the manner in which Bees operate when constructing their cells. They are so eager to afford mutual assistance, and for this purpose so many of them crowd together, and are perpetually succeeding each other, that their individual operations can seldom be distinctly observed. It has, however, been discovered that their two jaws are the only instruments they employ in modelling and polishing the wax. With a little patience and attention we perceive cells just begun: we likewise remark the quickness with which a Bee moves its teeth against a small portion of the cell. This portion the animal, by repeated strokes on each side, smooths, renders compact, and reduces to a proper thinness. While some individuals of the hive are lengthening their six-sided tubes, others are laying the foundations of new ones. In certain circumstances, when extremely hurried, they do not complete their new cells, but leave them imperfect until they have begun a number sufficient for their present exigencies. When a Bee puts its head a little way into a cell, we easily perceive it, with the points of its teeth, scraping the walls, in order to detach such useless and irregular fragments as may

have been left in the work. Of these fragments the Bee forms a ball, about the size of a pin's head. It issues from the cell, and carries this wax to another part of the work, where it is wanted: it no sooner leaves the cell than it is succeeded by another Bee, which performs a similar office; and in this manner the work is successively carried on, till the cell is completely polished.

Their mode of working, and the disposition and division of their labour, when put into an empty hive, are very wonderful. They immediately begin to lay the foundation of their combs. This is an operation which they execute with surprising quickness and alacrity. Soon after they have begun to construct one comb they divide into two or three companies, each of which, in different parts of the hive, is occupied in similar operations. By this division of labour, a great number of Bees have an opportunity of being employed at the same time, and, consequently, the common work is sooner finished. The combs are generally arranged in a direction parallel to each other. An interval or street between them is always left, that the Bees may have a free passage and an easy communication with the different combs in the hive. These streets are just wide enough to allow two Bees to pass one another. Besides these parallel streets, the Bees, to shorten their journey when working, leave several cross passages, which are always covered.

They are extremely solicitous to prevent insects of any kind from getting admittance into their hives. To accomplish this purpose, and to shut out the cold, they carefully examine every part of their hive, and if they discover any holes or chinks, they immediately paste them firmly up with a resinous substance, which differs materially from wax. This substance was known to the ancients by the name of *propolis*, or bee-glue. Bees use the propolis for rendering their hives more close and perfect, in preference to wax, because it is more durable, and because it more powerfully resists the vicissitudes of weather than wax. This glue is not, like the wax, formed by an animal process. The Bees collect it from different trees, such as the poplar, birch, and willow. It is a complete production of nature, and requires no additional manufacture from the animals by which it is employed. After a Bee has procured a quantity sufficient to fill the cavities of its two hind-legs, it repairs to the hive. Two of its companions instantly draw out the propolis, and apply it to fill up such chinks, holes, or other deficiencies, as they find in their habitation. But this is not the only use to which Bees apply the propolis. They are extremely solicitous to remove such insects or foreign bodies as happen to get admission into the hive. When these are so light as not to exceed their powers, they first kill the insect with their stings, and then drag it out with their teeth. But it some-

times happens, that an ill-fated snail creeps into the hive. This is no sooner perceived, than it is attacked on all sides, and stung to death. But how are the Bees to carry out so heavy a burden? Such a labour would be in vain. To prevent the noxious odours consequent on its putrefaction, they immediately embalm it, by covering every part of its body with propolis, through which no effluvia can escape.

But propolis, and the materials for making wax, are not the only substances which these industrious animals have to collect. As, during the whole winter, and even during many days in summer, the Bees are prevented by the weather from going abroad in quest of provisions, they are under the necessity of collecting and amassing, in cells destined for that purpose, large quantities of honey. This, by means of their trunk, they extract from the nectariferous glands of flowers. The trunk of the Bee is a kind of tough, cartilaginous tongue. After collecting a few small drops of honey with this, the animal carries them to its mouth, and swallows them. From the gullet they pass into the first stomach. This, when filled with honey, assumes the figure of an oblong bladder, the membrane of which is so thin and transparent, that it allows the colour of the liquid it contains to be distinctly seen. As soon as their stomach is full, the Bees return directly to the hive, and disgorge into a cell the whole of the honey they have collected. It, however, not unfrequently happens, that

on its way to the hive the Bee is accosted by a hungry companion. How the one manages to communicate its wants to the other, is not known. But the fact is certain, that when two Bees meet in this situation, they mutually stop, and the one whose stomach is full of honey, extends its trunk, opens its mouth, and, like a ruminating animal, forces up the honey. The hungry Bee, with the point of its trunk, sucks the honey from the other's mouth. When not stopped on the road, the Bee, as before stated, proceeds to the hive, and in the same manner offers its honey to those who are at work, as if it meant to prevent the necessity of their quitting their labour in order to go in quest of food. In bad weather, the Bees feed on the honey laid up in open cells ; but they never touch their reservoirs, while their companions are enabled to supply them with fresh honey from the fields. The mouths of those cells which are destined for preserving honey during the winter they always cover with a lid or thin plate of wax.

How numerous soever the Bees in one swarm may appear to be, they all originate from a single parent. It is indeed surprising, that one small insect should, in a few months, give birth to so many young ones; but, on opening her body at a certain season of the year, eggs to the number of many thousands may be found contained in it.

The queen is easily distinguished from the rest by the size and shape of her body. On her depends the welfare of the

whole community; and, by the attention that is paid to all her movements, it is evident how much they depend on her security. At times, attended by a numerous retinue, she is seen in the act of marching from cell to cell, plunging the extremity of her body into each of them, and leaving in each an egg.

A day or two after this egg is deposited, the grub is excluded from the shell, having the shape of a maggot rolled up in a ring, and lying softly on a bed of whitish-coloured jelly, on which it begins to feed. The common Bees then attend with astonishing tenderness and anxiety: they furnish it with food, and watch over it with unremitting assiduity. In about six days the grub attains its full growth, when its affectionate attendants shut up the mouth of its apartment with wax, in order to secure it from injury. Thus enclosed, it soon begins to line the walls of its cell with a silken tapestry, in which it undergoes its last transformation.

When it first crawls forth a winged insect, it is very weak and inactive; but, in the course of a few hours, it acquires strength enough to fly off to its labour. On its emerging from the cell, the officious Bees flock round it, and lick up its moisture with their tongues. One party brings honey for it to feed upon, and another is employed in cleansing the cell, and carrying out the filth, for the purpose of preparing it for a new inhabitant.

The neuter Bees in a hive amount to the number of 16,000 or 18,000. These are all armed with stings. The males are called *Drones*: they are unarmed, and are always killed by the neuters, about the month of September.

Mr. Wildman, whose remarks on the management of Bees are well known, possessed a secret by which he could at any time cause a hive of Bees to swarm upon his head, shoulders, or body, in a most surprising manner. He has been seen to drink a glass of wine, having at the same time the Bees all over his head and face more than an inch deep: several fell into the glass, but they did not sting him. He could even act the part of a general with them, by marshalling them in battle array upon a large table. There he divided them into regiments, battalions, and companies, according to military discipline, waiting only for his word of command. The moment he uttered the word *march!* they began to march in a regular manner, like soldiers. To these insects he also taught so much politeness, that they never attempted to sting any of the numerous company, which, at different times, resorted to admire this singular spectacle.

THE POPPY BEE.

THE Poppy Bee forms her nest in the ground, burrowing to the depth of about three inches. At the bottom, she makes a large and somewhat hemispherical cavity, which, after being rendered perfectly smooth on all sides, she carefully lines with a splendid tapestry, selected from the flowers of the wild poppy. From these, with great dexterity, she cuts pieces of a proper size and form, which she conveys to her cell; and, beginning at the bottom, covers with it the whole interior of this habitation of her future progeny. If the piece she has cut out and transported, be found too large for the place she intends it to fit, she clips off the superfluous parts, and conveys the shreds out of the apartment. The covering is even sometimes extending a little way round the orifice. The bottom is rendered warm by three or four coats, and the sides have never less than two. When the little creature has completed her apartment, she fills it with paste, made of pollen and honey, to the height of about half an inch; and, after having deposited an egg, she pushes down the poppy-lining until it completely covers the cell, and then closes up its mouth with earth, so nicely, as to render it not distinguishable from the adjoining soil.

THE LEAF-CUTTING BEE.

THESE bees construct cylindrical nests of the leaves of the rose and other trees. Their nests are sometimes of the depth of six inches, and generally consist of six or seven cells, each shaped like a thimble. They are formed with the convex end of one fitting into the open end of another. The portions of leaf of which they are made are not glued together, nor are they any otherwise fastened than in the nicety of their adjustment to each other; and yet they do not admit the liquid honey to drain through them. The interior surface of each cell consists of three pieces of leaf, of equal size; narrow at one end, but gradually widening to the other, where the width equals half the length. One side of each of these pieces is the jagged margin of the leaf. In forming the cell, the pieces of leaf are made to lap one over another, (the jagged side always outermost,) till a tube is thus formed, coated with three, four, or more layers. In coating these tubes, the provident little animal is careful to lay the middle of each piece of leaf over the margin of others, so as, by this means, both to cover and strengthen the junctions. At the closed or narrow end of the cell, the leaves are bent down so as to form a convex termination. When a

cell is formed, the next care of the bee is to fill it with honey and pollen, which, being collected chiefly from the thistles, form a rose-coloured paste. With these the cell is filled to within about half a line of its orifice; and the female then deposits in it an egg, and closes it with three perfectly circular pieces of leaf, which coincide so exactly with the walls of the cylindrical cell, as to be retained in their situation without any gluten. After this covering is fitted in, there still remains a hollow, which receives the convex end of the succeeding cell. In this manner the patient and indefatigable animal proceeds, till her whole cylinder of six or seven cells is completed. If the labour of these insects be interrupted, or the edifice be deranged, they exhibit astonishing perseverance in setting it again to rights.

Their mode of cutting pieces out of the leaves for their work deserves particular notice. When one of these bees selects a rose-bush with this view she flies round or hovers over it for some seconds, as if examining for the leaves best suited to her purpose. When she has chosen one she alights upon it, sometimes on the upper, and sometimes on the under surface, or not unfrequently on its edge, so that the margin passes between her legs. Her first attack, which is generally made the moment she alights, is usually near the footstalk, with her head turned towards the point. As soon as she begins to cut, she is wholly intent on her labour; nor

does she cease till her work is completed. The operation is performed by means of her jaws, with as much expedition as we could exert with a pair of scissors. As she proceeds, she holds the margin of the detached part between her legs in such a manner, that the section keeps giving way to her, and does not interrupt her progress. She makes her incision in a curved line, approaching the midrib of the leaf at first; but when she has reached a certain point, she recedes from this towards the margin, still cutting in a curve. When she has nearly detached from the leaf the portion she has been employed upon, she balances her little wings for flight, lest its weight should carry her to the ground; and the very moment it parts, she flies off in triumph, carrying it in a bent position between her legs, and perpendicularly to her body.

This mode of forming a nest is not confined to the present species: several other bees perform similar operations; but they adopt the leaves of different trees for this purpose, such as those of the horse-chesnut, the elm, &c.

THE MASON BEE.

THE Mason Bee, which is also one of the solitary species, derives its name from its constructing a nest of mud or mortar. This, on its exterior, has so little of a regular ap-

pearance, that it is generally regarded as a piece of dirt accidentally adhering to a wall. Within, however, it is furnished with regular cells, each of which affords convenient lodgment to a white larva, much resembling that of the hive-bee. In constructing this nest, which is a work of great labour and art, the female is the sole operator, receiving no assistance whatever from the male.

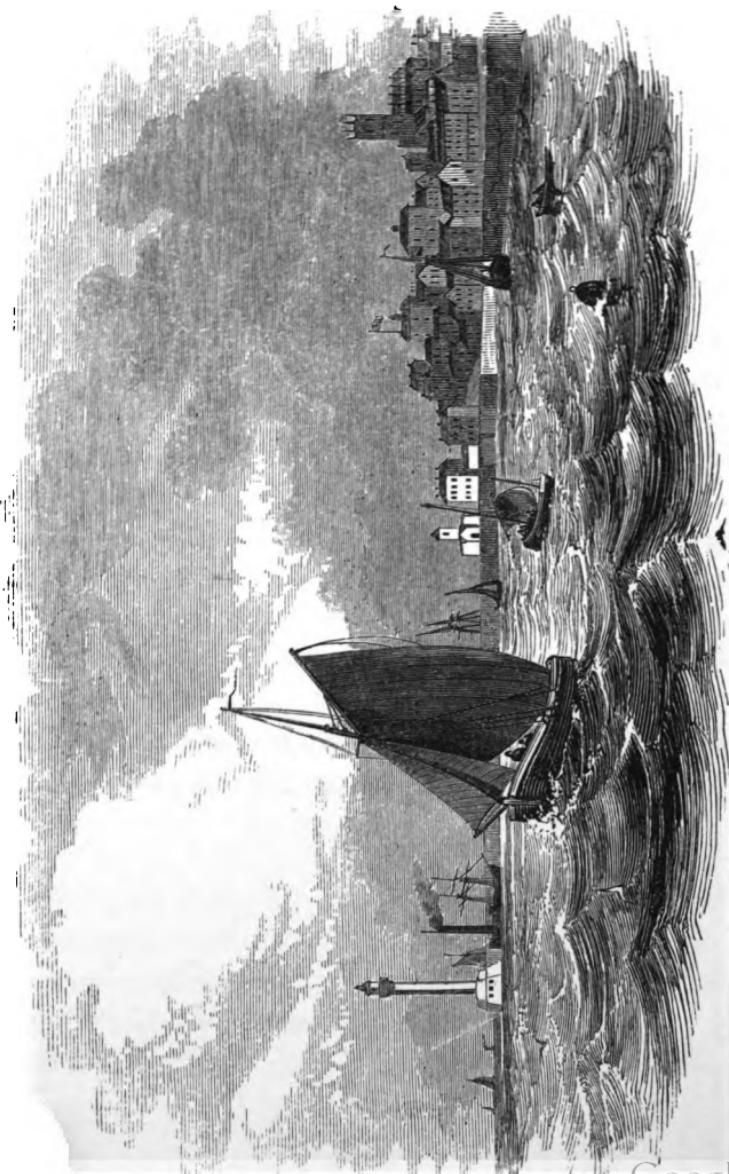
After having fixed upon an angle, sheltered by any projection, on the south side of a stone wall, or upon some rough part of its surface, she goes in quest of the necessary materials. Her nest is to be constructed of a kind of mortar, of which sand is to be the basis. She is very cautious in her choice of this, and selects it with her jaws, grain by grain. To shorten her labour, before she transports it for use, she glues together, by means of a viscid saliva from her body, as many grains as she can carry: these form a little mass, about the size of a small shot. Taking this up in her jaws, she conveys it to the place she has fixed upon for the site of her house. She labours incessantly till her whole work is completed, which usually occupies five or six days. The number of cells in one nest is from three to fifteen: these are all similar, and nearly equal in dimensions, each being about an inch high, and half an inch in diameter; and, before its orifice is closed, resembling a thimble in shape. When a cell is raised to somewhat more than half its height, the little

mason lays up in it a store of pollen, seasoned with honey, for the sustenance of its future inhabitant. This being done, she deposits her egg, finishes and covers her cell, and then proceeds to the erection of a second, which she furnishes and finishes in a similar manner; and so on till the work is completed. The cells are not placed in any regular order: some are parallel with the wall, others perpendicular to it, and others are inclined to it at different angles. This occasions many empty spaces between the cells. These the laborious architect fills up with the same kind of cement, and she then bestows on the whole group a common covering, made with coarser grains of sand; so that at length the nest becomes a mass of mortar, so hard as not easily to be penetrated even by the blade of a knife.

The nests of the Mason Bees, which sometimes last for several seasons, are often the cause of desperate conflicts. When one insect has taken possession of a nest, and is gone abroad in quest of materials to repair it, another will frequently come to seize upon it. If they meet, a battle invariably ensues. This is always fought in the air. Sometimes the two Bees fly with such rapidity and force against each other, that both fall to the ground. But in general, like birds of prey, the one endeavours to rise above the other, and to give a downward blow. To avoid the stroke, the undermost, instead of flying forward, or laterally, is frequently

observed to fly backward. This retrograde flight is likewise performed occasionally by the common house-fly, and some other insects, though we are unable to perceive what stimulates them to employ so uncommon a movement.

From the hardness of the materials with which the Mason Bee constructs her nest, and from the industry and dexterity which she employs to protect her progeny from enemies of every kind, we should naturally imagine that the young-ones would be in perfect safety, and that their castle would be impregnable. But, notwithstanding all these precautions, they are often devoured by the larvæ of a peculiar species of ichneumon fly, the eggs of which are deposited in the cells before the Bee has completed them. They have also an enemy even more formidable than the ichneumon. A species of beetle insinuates its eggs into an unfinished cell: from this proceeds a strong and rapacious grub, which often pierces through every cell in the nest, and successively devours all the inhabitants.



MARGATE.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

MARGATE

ORIGINALLY consisted of one long and irregular street, but its buildings now cover the slopes of two extensive hills and the valley between them. A company of enterprising individuals first rendered the town attractive by the erection of fit dwellings for visitors, and the unrivalled superiority of Margate as a bathing retreat, with the facilities of communication afforded by the modern improvements in steam, have given rise to its present importance.

In the time of Elizabeth there was a wooden pier here, which was maintained by certain rates levied upon all corn and merchandise exported from and imported into the town. These dues were confirmed by the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and altered as occasion required, and in 1723, when Lewis wrote his "History of Thanet," the pier and harbour were under the management of two wardens, the pier being the property of the town.

A prominent object in view of the town is Trinity Church. It is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the first stone having been laid in 1825, by Dr. Sutton, the late Archbishop of Canterbury. This fine building is constructed for 2000 persons, and contains 1200 free sittings. It is built of Bath-

stone, and in its style is the pure Gothic of the time of Edward III.

The old church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a spacious edifice, standing on an elevated spot on the south-east side of the town: it consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles, with a square tower at the north-west angle.

Sea-bathing is one of the luxuries of a visit to Margate. The bathing place is a fine level sandy shore, extending under the cliffs for several miles, and, at proper times of tide, forms a most pleasant walk. But the most fashionable promenade is the pier, which, being finished by a parapet breast-high, is perfectly safe. In the evening, and at the times of the coming in and going out of a packet, it is frequently crowded with a motley group, in which persons of all distinctions are indiscriminately blended—a circumstance thus noticed by Peter Pindar:—

Soon as thou gett'st within the pier
All Margate will be out I trow,
And people rush from far and near,
As if thou hadst wild beasts to show.

The Sea-Bathing Infirmary is a very commendable and useful institution, and worthy of the support of all wealthy visitors to the place. By its means the poor are enabled to enjoy the benefit of the restorative effects of sea air and bathing.

WHITE HANDS.

MARGARET and Leonora Osborne were sisters. Margaret was the elder. She was very affectionate in manners, and, what is still better, in disposition also. She was not remarkable for beauty; but her pleasing smile and bright kind looks showed how happy she felt. She was very active, and always ready to perform any kind office. She could do a good many things. She could dress herself and her doll.

"Of course she could," I hear some of my readers say; "and so can we."

"She could knit and sew."

"So can we."

"Well, well, I am glad to hear you all say so; but I must tell you that it is not quite the thing to talk so much while an Author is writing; so let me finish my tale, and then you will see whether you resemble Margaret or Leonora."

Leonora could do many useful things as well as Margaret. There was a great difference between the two sisters; but it was not in this respect, for Leonora would have been as much ashamed as any of you, had she been ignorant of these simple accomplishments. The difference consisted in this,

that Margaret was humble and sensible, and was always glad to do anything to please, whether it was gardening, or washing dolls' clothes for her little sisters, or telling them pretty stories to amuse them; and all these little kindnesses were done during the interval of school. She would frequently have preferred doing many other things; but she wished to be affectionate, to gain their love. Leonora, on the contrary, had always something on those occasions which required her *utmost attention*. She was a very foolish little girl, and I am sure you will agree with me in this opinion when I tell you the reason: she had very pretty white hands, of which she was so very vain, that she refused doing many kind little offices, for fear she should spoil them.

"Only look," she would say to her sister, "how very red and coarse your hands are to mine. Any one would take yours for servant's hands—ladies have white hands."

Margaret would answer kindly and meekly, and acknowledge that Leonora's were much prettier than hers; but she would good-naturedly say I must not complain when I am able to do so many things with mine to make our dear little sisters happy. Mother says, "Hands were made to be used, and as mine are not beautiful, I am resolved that they shall be useful. They shall be kind hands, that will help every body who needs assistance."

"Who ever heard of kind hands?" retorted Leonora.

“ My dear,” said her mother, who had overheard the little girls’ conversation, “ did you ever hear of kind-hearted people ? ”

“ Yes, Mother.”

“ People who have kind hearts have kind hands also,” replied her mother, “ for the hands are always ready to obey the dictates of the heart. Margaret has a kind heart, and therefore will have kind hands, which are much better than white ones ; for, although white hands are pleasing to behold, they cease to be admired when they are found to be useless. How dearly little Emily loved Margaret for her kindness to her when she was ill ! As soon as she returned from school she would sit by her bed and read to her, and sometimes sing her to sleep ; and if you could have seen the beautiful card coach and horses she cut out for Emily, you would have been glad Margaret was your sister ; for nobody seemed to think of her hands being red and coarse, only that she was always kind and good to them. You will laugh when I tell you that the only part of Margaret’s person which was in danger from Emily was her neck, for she cuddled her so affectionately and tightly that she was really in danger of being suffocated.”

When little Emily had quite recovered, Mr. and Mrs. White, particular friends of Margaret’s parents, came to visit them. They were known to be very fond of children, and

took a great deal of notice of Margaret and Leonora ; but they did not appear to admire the white hands, and yet these were put into a variety of attitudes to attract attention.

Mr. and Mrs. White felt half inclined to smile at Leonora's vanity ; they asked her many questions, but, finding her unable to answer, they turned to Margaret, from whom they were sure to receive a suitable reply.

"Come," said these kind friends one fine morning, "let us have a gipsy party, and spend the day pleasantly in the woods."

All were delighted, and none more so than Leonora, who expected much pleasure.

"All who go must make themselves useful," said Mrs. Osborne ; "the little girls we take must not be above helping to light a fire, and doing many things which may soil their hands."

Leonora's countenance became clouded when she heard her mother speak these words ; and so great was her pride for her white hands, that she haughtily said she was sure she would not go out to light fires and make kettles boil !

So the party went without Leonora. Margaret enjoyed the day very much, laughing and running with her little sisters, and they thought it was capital fun to help their father and Mr. White to light a fire.

Now what did Leonora do ? Why, she staid at home,

and complained she was very ill-used ; but no one pitied her, for she was not kind to others.

But why did she not make herself happy by admiring her pretty white hands ?

What a funny question to ask !

I don't think so at all, my dear little friend, for Leonora thought other people derived great pleasure from looking at them, and why should not she to whom they belonged ?

Thus you see how very foolish it is for people to be proud of beauty, whether it be a beautiful face or beautiful white hands. How gladly would Leonora have exchanged hands with Margaret, and enjoyed that day in the woods !

Little girls should be careful to keep their hands and nails clean, and never to bite them, for that is a very vulgar habit, and is often a proof of a very bad temper ; but they should learn to be industrious and use their hands, for it is both foolish and wicked to be idle. It is foolish, because idle persons lose so much enjoyment, and depend upon others for many pleasures which they might procure for themselves. They are dissatisfied and ill-tempered, and think the days pass very slowly away. It is wicked to be idle, because there is so much that God requires us to do, and so little time to do it in. Everybody has faults, but with industry they may be corrected ; but idleness is the worst, and must be first overcome. Some people are pas-

sionate, others are obstinate: some sulky, others deceitful, and given to telling untruths. All these are very sad faults, and some people, unfortunately, have more than one of them.

Now, do you think, my dear little children, that any one will find life too long to correct all these? No; I am sure my readers will be such people of business, that time will only pass too quickly. Had Leonora spent only a portion of each day in checking her vanity, she would have been spared the ridicule of strangers, and saved her kind papa and mamma much sorrow. Margaret was beloved by all who knew her, although her hands were what Leonora called coarse and red; while Leonora, with her white and beautiful hands, was disliked, and was exposed to many mortifications from which her amiable sister was spared.

A few days after Mr. and Mrs. White had left Mr. Osborne's the children received a box from them, and great was their delight and anxiety to see the contents. There were handsome dolls and books of various descriptions for the younger ones, and a beautiful writing-desk, filled with paper and sealing-wax and every requisite, for Margaret, accompanied by a very kind letter from Mrs. White, inviting her to spend a fortnight with them, to meet a merry little party. Leonora looked in vain, there was no present for her!—she was entirely forgotten, her name was not even

mentioned in her sister's letter. Ashamed and mortified, she hastily left the room to hide her tears, and wisely sat down to consider the cause of their friends making so great a difference between her sister and herself. "How very kind they have been to Margaret, and they have not even mentioned my name!" and Leonora again burst into tears. In this state her mamma found her; and, sitting kindly by her, asked her to remember whether she had ever tried to please their friends by any little kind offices. The penitent girl confessed she had not; and, throwing her arms around her mother's neck, besought her forgiveness. This she readily obtained, and Mrs. Osborne kissed her tenderly. "The sure way of being happy, my dear Leonora, is to try to make others so. This is the reason why Margaret is so happy. But I am sure I need not say more, for my dear little girl will find out the true way to be beloved." In a day or two afterwards Margaret left, and Leonora began in earnest to try to make herself amiable. "Shall I dress your doll for you, dear Emily?" "Thank you," said the astonished child, "you are almost as kind as Margaret." Helen now looked timidly up, almost afraid to ask, but, gaining courage from Emily, begged Leonora to show her how to sow some seeds in her own little garden. She kindly consented, and assisted little Helen; and Leonora, with her pretty hands soiled with the mould, was far

happier in having pleased and gratified her little sisters, than she had ever been while refusing their requests. In this manner the time passed away pleasantly, for Leonora, who was gaining the affections of little Emily and Helen, who were anxious to show their love in return, became quite a different being. Her countenance, which had before been rendered disagreeable by the stiff formal air of conceit and pride, now assumed a look of cheerfulness, which quite astonished all who knew her. From being good-natured and obliging, she actually looked good-natured, so much so that she began to attract as much attention as her amiable sister Margaret.

Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, who had watched with delight this improvement in their child, resolved to make the most of it for her advantage. So they adopted the following plan:—They invited their friends shortly after to their house again, and told them, in their letter, that it was to see a new child they had got, that they wished them to come. This intelligence surprised Mr. and Mrs. White, and they shortly after arrived. It was on a very wet day, and Mrs. White having to walk some distance, along a dirty road, after she left the railway, her boots had become wet and muddy. She entered the house, and, having sat down, commenced conversing with Mrs. Osborne, but stopped short, in astonishment, on seeing Leonora kneel down to unlace her *muddy* boots, for the

purpose of changing them ! Mrs. Osborne made a motion to her not to take any notice—so Leonora completed her kind office, and seemed quite pleased.

Mr. White shortly after entered the room, and as soon as he had seated himself Leonora inquired if his feet were damp, and whether she should procure him a pair of slippers. He was as much astonished as Mrs. White had been to see the courtesy of the once stuck-up girl. He accepted her kind offer, and she brought him a pair of slippers ; but when he saw her stoop down to take off his shoes he really was astonished.

Leonora soon after quitted the room, and left her parents with their visitors.

“ The mystery of your ‘*new child*’ is explained on my very entrance into the house,” said Mrs. White. “ How have you found it possible to effect such a change ? ”

“ I have only appealed to good sense,” said Mrs. Osborne, “ and I think all children have it, if it is but called forth : I pointed out to Leonora the cause of her not being loved—I did it in the most affectionate manner I could, and I am delighted to see the result.”

“ I am equally pleased,” said Mrs. White, “ at your success, and I have often felt convinced that your plan is the most judicious. If persuasion and advice will not prevail, I am sure force will not ; and yours is a plan I shall always recommend to my friends.”

This second meeting of these two families was far happier than the preceding one had been, for there was nothing to make it unhappy. All the fathers and mothers were good of course—all the *little* children were good too. Margaret was good as usual, and Leonora seemed very good indeed, because formerly she had been so disagreeable. In fact it was a very pleasant time.

Mr. and Mrs. White at length prepared to return home, and, as a *particular favour*, they requested that Leonora might accompany them, to which her parents consented, and after a month's pleasant visit she returned home—a most complete and triumphant victory over pride and WHITE HANDS!



LITCHFIELD CATHEDRAL IN 1640.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

Is one of the most complete and beautiful, though not one of the largest, of those sacred edifices "which were raised by the hands of our pious forefathers to the honour and glory of God." It has been conjectured that the spot on which it is erected was chosen by its founders from the place having been the scene of the martyrdom of the early British martyrs, who, with their leader Amphibalus, were slaughtered in the vicinity. It is not known exactly at what date the present building was erected; but the greater part of it is supposed to have been built in the reign of King Henry III.

During the great rebellion in 1640, Lichfield Cathedral suffered considerable damage from the fanatical determination of Lord Brooke, who, at that time, commanded the rebel forces to raze it to the ground. Sir Walter Scott, in his "Marmion," alludes to this event: —

— fanatic Brooke

The fair cathedral spoiled, and took;
But, thanks to Heaven and good St. Chad,
A guerdon meet the spoiler had!

Lord Brooke, in his unholy attempt at the destruction of the cathedral, did not live to have the gratification of beholding the devastation he had occasioned, for during the siege a musket ball entered his right eye, and, penetrating the brain,

caused the almost instantaneous death of the rebel leader. Enraged at his loss, his followers pointed their artillery at the building, battered down the spire and a great part of the fabric, 2000 shot of great ordnance and 15,000 hand-grenades having been discharged against it before it surrendered. Courts of guard were kept in the aisles; they broke up the pavement, every day hunting a cat with hounds throughout the church, delighting themselves in the echo from the goodly vaulted roof; and, to add to their wickedness, they brought a calf into it wrapt in linen, carried it to the font, sprinkled it with water, and gave it a name, in scorn and derision of the holy sacrament of Baptism; and when Prince Rupert recovered the church by force of arms, Colonel Russel, the governor, carried away the communion plate and linen, and whatever else was of value.

In the reign of Offa the see of Lichfield took precedence of all the Mercian bishoprics, and was by Pope Adrian raised to be archiepiscopal, and invested with the jurisdiction of the greater part of Canterbury. This pre-eminence, however, was lost A.D. 803, and so great seems to have been the fall of Lichfield, that, after the Conquest, the see was transferred to Chester, from whence it was removed to Coventry, but again restored to Lichfield, A.D. 1148, by Roger de Clinton, who began the church and fortified the castle, of which latter no vestige remains.

THE LION-ANT.

THE LION-ANT, in its reptile state, that is, in its state previous to becoming a fly, is of the size of a common wood-louse, but somewhat broader. It has a rather long head, and a roundish body, which becomes a little narrower towards the tail. The colour is a dirty grey, speckled with black, and the body is composed of several flat rings, which slip one upon another. It has six feet, four of which are fixed to the breast, and two to the neck. The head is small and flat, and in front there are two little smooth horns and feelers, which are hard, about a quarter of an inch long, and crooked at the ends. At the basis of the feelers there are two small black lively eyes, by which it can see the smallest object, as is easily discovered by its starting from every thing that approaches.

To a form so unpromising, and so ill provided for the purposes of rapacity, this animal unites the most ravenous appetite in nature; but, to mark its imbecility still stronger, as other animals have wings or feet to enable them to advance towards their prey, the lion-ant is unprovided with such assistance from either. It has legs, indeed; but these

only enable it to run backward, so that it could as soon die as make the smallest progressive motion. Thus, famished and rapacious as it ever seems, its prey must come to it, or rather into the snare provided for it, or the insidious assassin must starve.

But Nature, who has denied it strength or swiftness, has given it an equivalent in cunning, so that no animal fares more sumptuously, without ever stirring from its retreat. For this purpose it chooses a dry sandy place, at the foot of a wall, or under some shelter, in order to preserve its deadly ambush from the rain. The driest and most sandy spot is the most proper for it; because a heavy clogged earth would defeat its labour. When it goes about to dig the hole where it takes its prey, it begins to bend the hinder part of its body, which is pointed, and thus works backward: making, after several attempts, a circular furrow, which serves to mark out the size of the hole it intends making, as the ancients marked out the limits of a city with a plough. Within this first furrow it digs a second, then a third, and afterwards others, which are always less than the preceding. Then it begins to deepen its hole, sinking lower and lower into the sand, which it throws with its horns, or feelers, towards the edges, as we see men throw up sand in a gravel pit. Thus, by repeating its labours all around, the sand is thrown up in a circle about the edge of the pit, until the hole is quite

completed. This hole is always formed in a perfect circle ; and the pit itself resembles the inside of an inverted funnel.

The work being thus with great labour finished, the insidious insect places itself in ambush, hiding itself in the bottom under the sand in such a manner, that its two horns encircle the bottom of the pit. All the sides of this pit-fall are made of the most loose and crumbling materials ; so that scarcely any insect can climb up that has once got down to the bottom. Conscious of this, the lion-ant remains in patient expectation, ready to profit by that accident which throws some heedless little animal into his den. If then, by misfortune, any ant or wood-louse, or a small caterpillar, walks too near the edge of the precipice, the sand gives way, and the unfortunate intruder falls to the bottom of the pit, where it meets inevitable destruction. The fall of a single grain of sand gives the murderer notice at the bottom of his cave ; and it never fails to sally forth to seize upon its prey. It happens sometimes, however, that the ant or wood-louse is too nimble, and runs up the side of the pit-fall before the other can make ready to seize it. The lion-ant has then another contrivance, still more wonderful than the former ; for, by means of its broad head and feelers, it has a method of throwing up a shower of sand, which falls upon the struggling captive with tremendous weight, and once more crushes it down to the bottom.

When the prey is reduced to a husk, and nothing but the external form remains, the next care of the murderer is to remove the body from its cell; therefore, taking up the wasted trunk with its feelers, it throws it, with wonderful strength, at least six inches from the edge of its hole; and then patiently sets about mending the breaches which its fortifications have received in the last engagement.

When the lion-ant attains a certain age, in which it is to change into another form, it then leaves off its usual rapacious habits.

It is produced in autumn, and generally lives a year, and perhaps two, before it assumes a winged form.

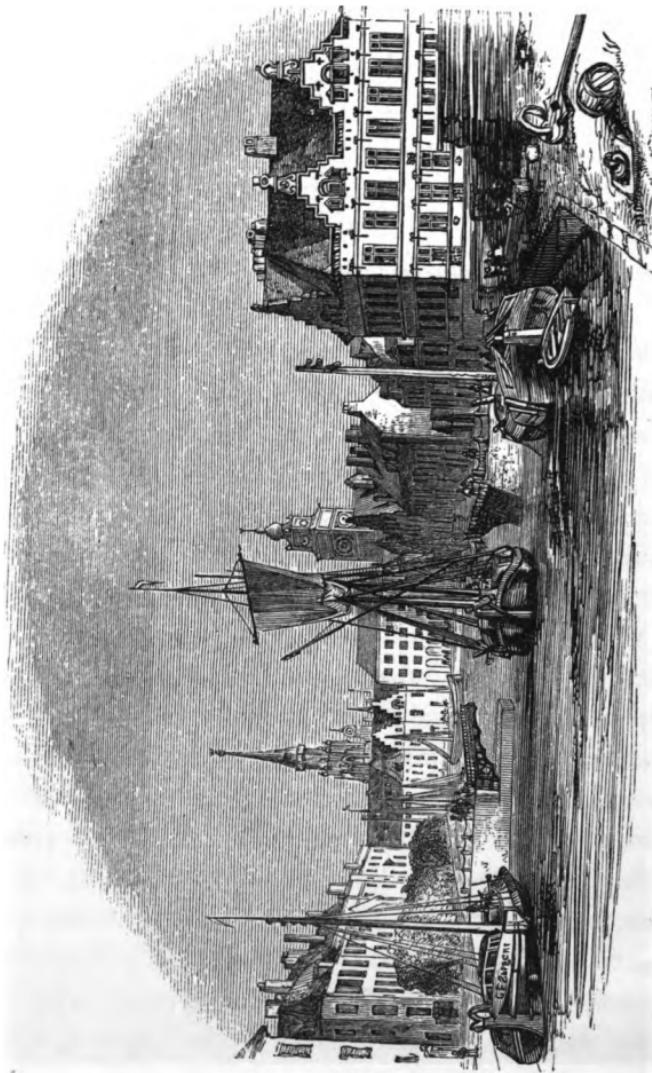
When the time of change approaches, if the insect finds its little cell convenient, it seeks no other: if it is obliged to remove, after furrowing up the sand, it hides itself under it, horns and all. It there spins a thread, in the manner of the spider; which, being made of a glutinous substance, and being humid from the moisture of its body, sticks to the little particles of sand among which it is spun; and in proportion as it is thus excluded, the insect rolls up its web, sand and all, into a ball, of which itself is the centre. This ball is about half an inch in diameter; and within it the insect resides, in an apartment sufficiently spacious for all its motions. The outside is composed of sand and silk; the inside is lined with silk only, of a fine pearl colour, ex-

tremely delicate, and perfectly beautiful. But though the work is so curious within, it exhibits nothing, to external appearance, but a lump of sand; and thus escapes the search of birds, that might otherwise disturb the inhabitant within.

The insect continues thus shut up for six weeks or two months; and, gradually, parts with its eyes, its feelers, its feet, and its skin; all which are thrust into a corner of the inner apartment, like a rag. The insect then appears almost in its winged state, except that there is a thin skin which wraps up the wings, and which appears to be nothing else but a liquor dried on their outside. Still, however, the little creature is too delicate and tender to venture from its retreat; but continues inclosed for some time longer: at length, when the limbs of this new insect have acquired the necessary consistence and vigour, it tears open its lodging, and breaks through its wall. For this purpose it has two teeth, like those of grasshoppers, with which it eats through, and enlarges the opening, till it gets out. Its body, which is turned like a screw, takes up no more than the space of a quarter of an inch; but when it is unfolded, it becomes half an inch in length; while its wings, that seemed to occupy the smallest space, in two minutes' time unfold, and become longer than the body. In short, it becomes a large and beautiful fly, of the libella kind, with a long, slender body,

of a brown colour; a small head, with large bright eyes, long slender legs, and four large, transparent, reticulated wings. The rest of its habits resemble that insect whose form it bears; except, that instead of dropping its eggs in the water, it deposits them in sand, where they are soon hatched into that rapacious insect, so truly wonderful for its method of catching its prey.





BRUSSELS.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

BRUSSELS,

FORMERLY the capital of the Austrian Netherlands, with 75,000 inhabitants, is now the principal city of Belgium. During twenty years, from 1794 to 1814, it was in the possession of the French, and the chief town in the department of the Dyle. It is a favourite resort of the English, many of whom have resided there since the peace of 1814. The gloomy forest of Sognies, so memorable since the battle of Waterloo, lies on the south and south-west of the town. It was formerly surrounded by a wall, which has since been demolished, and the ramparts laid out in public walks. The upper part of the city is magnificent. The park is a spacious square, laid out with shaded walks, and surrounded by the palaces, public offices, and principal private houses. In the lower part, lying on a plain watered by the Senne, the streets are narrow and crowded, but the great market place is very beautifully situated. This part of the city is intersected by several canals, connected with the Senne, and the great Scheldt canal. The other principal

squares are Oorlogo Plaats, Michael's Plaats, and Sands Plaats. The principal churches are St. Michael's and the church of St. Gudule. The Hotel de Ville has long been celebrated for the peculiar beauty of its architecture.

Brussels also contains an academy of arts and sciences, and a central school with a library of 100,000 volumes, a valuable gallery of paintings, and a cabinet of natural history. The school of medicine and that of botany have also apartments, and there is a public botanic garden. Its manufactures are celebrated throughout Europe and America, particularly lace, camlets, and carpets; the first alone employs 10,000 individuals. It carries on a considerable trade with the interior of the Netherlands, and also with foreign countries, by means of its canals. The principal of these was constructed in 1560 and 1561, and leads to Antwerp: it is 110 feet above the level of the sea. The city owes its origin to St. Gery, who, in the seventh century, built a chapel on an island in the Senne, and preached to the peasants. As the numbers collected here became great, it was surrounded with a wall, in 1044, and became, in process of time, the residence of the dukes of Brabant, and of the Austrian governors. It was several times captured by the French, and in 1789-90 took the lead in the troubles which broke out in the Netherlands.



THE WHITE ANTS OF AFRICA.

THE animals of this extraordinary community are found in the East Indies, and in many parts of Africa and South America, where their depredations are greatly dreaded by the inhabitants. Mr. Smeathman, whose account of them occupies more than fifty pages in the seventy-first volume of the Philosophical Transactions, says, that they are naturally divided into three orders: 1. The working insects, which he distinguishes by the name of *labourers*; 2. The fighters, or

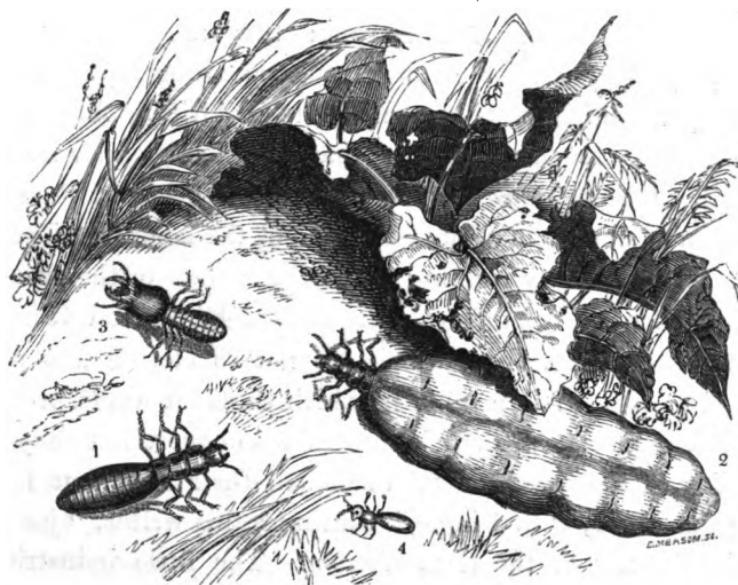
soldiers, which perform no other labour than such as is necessary in defence of the nests ; and 3. The winged or perfect insects, which are male and female, and capable of multiplying the species. The latter he denominates the *nobility* or *gentry* ; because they neither labour nor fight.

In their nest or hill, for they build this on the surface of the ground, the labourers are always the most numerous, there being at least a hundred labourers to one of the fighting insects, or soldiers. In this state they are about a quarter of an inch in length.

The second order, or soldiers, differ in figure from the labourers. These appear to be such insects as have undergone one change toward their perfect state. They are now nearly half an inch in length, and are equal in size to about fifteen of the labourers. The shape of the head is likewise greatly changed. In the former state, the mouth was evidently formed for gnawing, or for holding bodies ; but, in this state, the jaws being shaped like two sharp awls, a little jagged, are destined solely for piercing or wounding. For these purposes they are well calculated, being as hard as a crab's claw, and placed in a strong horny head, which is larger than all the rest of the body.

The insect of the third order, or in its perfect state, is still more remarkable. The head, the thorax, and the abdomen, differ almost in the same parts as in the labourers and sol-

diers. The animals are, also, now furnished with four large, brownish, transparent wings, by which they are enabled,



1. King. 2. Queen. 3. Soldier. 4. Labourer.

at the proper season, to emigrate, and to establish new settlements. They are likewise greatly altered in their size as well as figure, and have acquired the power of propagating the species. Their bodies now measure nearly three quarters of an inch in length, their wings, from tip to tip, more than two inches and a half, and their bulk is equal to that of thirty

labourers, or two soldiers. Instead of active, industrious, and rapacious little animals, they now become innocent, helpless, and dastardly. Their numbers are great, but their enemies are still more numerous: they are devoured by birds, by every species of ants, by carnivorous reptiles, and even by the inhabitants of many parts of Africa. After such devastation, it seems surprising that even a single pair should escape. "Some, however," says Mr. Smeathman, "are so fortunate; and, being found by some of the labouring insects that are continually running about the surface of the ground under their covered galleries, are *elected* Kings and Queens of new states: all those which are not so elected and preserved perish. The manner in which these labourers protect the happy pair from their innumerable enemies, not only on the day of the massacre of almost all their race, but for a long time after, will, I hope," continues this writer, "justify me in the use of the term *election*. The little industrious creatures immediately enclose them in a small chamber of clay suitable to their size, into which at first they leave but one entrance, large enough for themselves and the soldiers to go in and out at, but much too little for either of the royal pair to use; and, when necessity obliges them to make more entrances, such entrances are never larger; so that the voluntary subjects charge themselves with the task of providing for the offspring of their sovereigns, as well as of

working and fighting for them, until they have raised a progeny capable of at least dividing the task with them."

About this time a most extraordinary change takes place in the queen. The abdomen begins to extend and enlarge to such an enormous size, that an old queen will sometimes have it so much increased, as to be nearly *two thousand* times the bulk of the rest of her body. It is now of an irregular, oblong shape, and becomes one vast matrix full of eggs. When these are perfectly formed, they begin to be protruded and they come forth so quickly, that about sixty in a minute, or upwards of eighty thousand in twenty-four hours, are deposited.

The eggs are immediately taken away by the attendants, and carried to the nurseries. Here they are hatched. The young ones, when they issue forth, are attended and provided with every thing necessary, until they are able to obtain food for themselves, and to take their share in the labours of the community.

The nests, or rather *hills*, of these Ants (for they are often elevated ten or twelve feet above the surface of the ground), are nearly of a conical shape; and sometimes so numerous, as at a little distance to appear like villages of the negroes. Jobson, in his History of Gambia, says, that some of them are twenty feet high, and that he and his companions have often hidden themselves behind them, for the purpose of

shooting deer and other wild animals. Each hill is composed of an exterior and an interior part. The exterior cover is a large clay shell, shaped like a dome, of strength and magnitude sufficient to enclose and protect the interior building from the injuries of the weather, and to defend its numerous inhabitants from the attacks of natural or accidental enemies.

The royal chamber is always situated as near the centre of the building as possible, is generally on a level with the surface of the ground, and is of an obtuse oval shape within. In the infant state of the colony, it is not more than an inch in length; but in time it becomes enlarged to the length of six or eight inches.

The entrances into the royal chamber, not admitting any animal larger than the labourers or soldiers, it follows that the king and queen can never possibly get out. This chamber is surrounded by many others, of different sizes, figures, and dimensions; all of them arched either in a circular or an elliptical form. These either open into each other, or have communicating passages; which, being always clear, are evidently intended for the convenience of the soldiers and attendants, of whom great numbers are necessary. The latter apartments are joined by the magazines and nurseries. The magazines are chambers of clay, and are all at times well stored with provisions, which, to the naked eye, seem to consist of the raspings of wood and plants; but, when examined by the micro-

scope, they are found to consist chiefly of the gums or dried juices of plants, thrown together in small irregular masses.

The magazines are always intermixed with the nurseries, buildings totally different from the rest of the apartments. These are composed entirely of wooden materials, which seem to be cemented with gum. They are invariably occupied by the eggs, and by the young ones, which first appear in the shape of labourers. These buildings are exceedingly compact, and are divided into many small irregular-shaped chambers, not one of which is half an inch wide. They are placed all round, and as near as possible to the royal apartments. When a nest is in an infant state, the nurseries are close to the royal apartment. But, when the body of the queen enlarges, it becomes necessary, for her accommodation, to augment the dimensions of her chamber. She then, likewise, lays a greater number of eggs, and requires more attendants than before ; and of course it becomes necessary that both the number and dimensions of the adjacent apartments should be augmented. For this purpose, the small first-built nurseries are taken to pieces, rebuilt a little further off, and made a size larger; and their number, at the same time, is increased. Thus the animals are continually employed in pulling down, repairing, or rebuilding their apartments ; and these operations they perform with wonderful sagacity, regularity, and foresight.

The nurseries are enclosed in chambers of clay, like those which contain the provisions ; but they are much larger. In the early state of the nest they are not bigger than a hazel nut : but in great hills they are often four or five inches across.

The royal chamber, as before observed, is situated as nearly under the apex of the hill as possible, and is surrounded, both above and below, by what Mr. Smeathman calls the *royal apartments*, or such as contain only those labourers and soldiers that are employed in defence of the common parents. These apartments compose an intricate labyrinth, which extends a foot or more in diameter from the royal chamber on every side. Here the nurseries and magazines of provisions begin ; and, being separated by small empty chambers and galleries, which surround them, and communicate with each other, they are continued on all sides to the outward shell, and reach up within two-thirds or three-fourths of its height, leaving an open area in the middle under the dome. This is surrounded by large pointed arches, which are sometimes two or three feet high next to the front of the area, but diminish rapidly as they recede, and are soon lost among the innumerable chambers and nurseries behind them. The inferior buildings, or assemblage of nurseries, chambers, and passages, has a flattish roof, without any perforation. By this contrivance, if by accident water should penetrate the ex-

ternal dome, the apartments below are preserved from injury. The area has also a flattish roof, which is situated above the royal chamber. It is likewise water-proof, and so constructed, that, if water get admittance, it runs off by subterraneous passages, which are cylindrical, and some of them are so large as to be twelve or thirteen inches in diameter. These subterraneous passages are thickly lined with clay. They ascend the internal part of the external shell in a spiral form, and, winding round the whole building up to the top, intersect and communicate with each other at different heights. From every part of these large galleries, a number of pipes, or smaller galleries, leading to different apartments of the building, proceed. There are likewise a great number which lead downward, by sloping descents, to a considerable depth under the surface of the ground. Other galleries ascend and lead out horizontally on every side, and are also carried underground, but near the surface, to great distances, for the purpose of foraging.

When a breach is made, by an axe or other instrument, in any of the walls, the first object that attracts attention, is the behaviour of the soldiers or fighting insects. Immediately after the blow is given, a soldier comes out, walks about the breach, and seems to examine the nature of the enemy, or the cause of the attack. He then goes into the hill, gives the alarm, and, in a short time, large bodies of

soldiers rush out as fast as the breach will permit. It is not easy to describe the fury that actuates these fighting insects. In their eagerness to repel the enemy, they frequently tumble down the sides of the hill, but quickly recover themselves, and bite every thing they encounter. This biting, joined to the striking of their forceps upon the building, makes a crackling or vibrating noise, which is somewhat shriller and quicker than the ticking of a watch, and may be heard at the distance of several feet. While the attack proceeds, they are in the most violent bustle and agitation imaginable. If they seize hold of any part of a man's body, they instantly make a wound, which gives considerable pain. When they attack the leg, the stain of blood upon the stocking extends more than an inch in width. They make their hooked jaws meet at the first stroke, and never quit their hold, but will suffer themselves to be pulled away, piece after piece, without any attempt to escape. On the other hand, if a person keep out of their reach, and give them no further disturbance, in less than half an hour they retire into the nest, as if they supposed the monster that damaged their castle had fled. Before the whole of the soldiers have got in, the labouring insects are all in motion, and hasten toward the breach, each of them having a quantity of tempered mortar in his mouth. This mortar they stick upon the breach as fast as they arrive; and they perform the operation with so much dispatch and

facility, that, notwithstanding the immensity of their numbers, they never stop or embarrass one another. During this scene of apparent hurry and confusion, the spectator is agreeably surprised to perceive a regular wall gradually rising up and filling the chasm. While the labourers are thus employed, almost all the soldiers remain within, except here and there one, who saunters about among six hundred or a thousand labourers, but never touches the mortar. One soldier, however, invariably takes his station close to the wall which the labourers are building. This soldier turns himself leisurely on all sides, and, at intervals of a minute or two, raises his head, beats upon the building with his forceps, and makes the vibrating noise formerly mentioned. A loud kind of hiss instantly issues from the inside of the dome, and from all the subterraneous caverns and passages. That this hiss proceeds from the labourers is apparent; for, at every signal of this kind, they work with redoubled alacrity. A renewal of the attack, however, instantly changes the scene. "At the first stroke," Mr. Smeathman remarks, "the labourers run into the many pipes and galleries with which the building is perforated; and this they do so quickly, that they seem to vanish; for, in a few seconds, all are gone, and the soldiers rush out as numerous and as vindictive as before. On finding no enemy, they return leisurely into the hill; and, soon afterwards, the labourers appear loaded as at first, with

soldiers here and there among them, who act in the same manner as before, one or other of them giving the signal to hasten the business. Thus the pleasure of seeing them come out to fight and to work alternately, may be obtained as often as curiosity excites, or time permits; and it will certainly be found, that the one order never attempts to fight, nor the other to work, let the emergency be ever so great."

It is exceedingly difficult to explore the interior parts of a nest or hill. The apartments which surround the royal chamber and the nurseries, and, indeed, the whole fabric, have such a dependence on each other, that the breaking of one arch generally pulls down two or three. Another great obstacle is the obstinacy of the soldiers, which, says Mr. Smeathman, "fight to the very last, disputing every inch of ground so well, as often to drive away the negroes who are without shoes, and to make white people bleed plentifully through their stockings. Neither can we let a building stand, so as to get a view of the interior parts without interruption; for while the soldiers are defending the outworks, the labourers keep barricading all the way against us, stopping up the different galleries and passages which lead to the various apartments, particularly the royal chamber, all the entrances to which they fill so artfully as not to let it be distinguishable while the work remains moist; and, externally,

it has no other appearance than that of a shapeless lump of clay. It is, however, easily found, from its situation with respect to the other parts of the building, and by the crowds of labourers and soldiers which surround it, and which exhibit their loyalty and fidelity by dying under its walls. The royal chamber is often capacious enough to hold many hundreds of the attendants, besides the royal pair; and is always found as full of attendants as it can hold. These faithful subjects never abandon their charge even in the last distress; for, whenever I took out the royal chamber, as I often did, and preserved it for some time in a large glass bowl, all the attendants continued to run round the king and queen with the utmost solicitude, some of them stopping at the head of the latter, as if to give her something. When they came to the extremity of the abdomen, they took the eggs from her, carried them away, and piled them carefully together in some part of the chamber, or in the bowl under, or behind any broken pieces of clay which lay most conveniently for the purpose."

"AS STUPID AS AN OWL."

LITTLE folks will often hear the expression used, "as stupid as an owl," and to those who have not had the opportunity of watching the habits of these odd birds, it will be as well to account for the expression, in order that those who use it may not be charged with injustice.

Incapable of seeing their prey, or even of avoiding danger in the full blaze of day, White or Screech Owls keep concealed during this time, in some secure retreat suited to their gloomy habits, and there continue in solitude and silence. If they venture abroad, every thing dazzles and distracts them. Legions of birds flock around them, and single them out as objects of derision and contempt. The blackbird, the thrush, the jay, the bunting, and the redbreast, all come in a crowd, and employ their little arts of insult and abuse. The smallest, the feeblest, and the most contemptible enemies of this bewildered creature are then the foremost to injure and torment him. They increase their cries and turbulence around him, flap him with their wings, and, like cowards, are ready to exhibit their courage when they are sensible that the danger is but small. The unfortunate wanderer,

not knowing where he is, whom to attack, or whither to fly, patiently sits and suffers all their indignities with the utmost stupidity. An aversion which the smaller birds bear to the Owl, with a temporary assurance of their own security, urge them to pursue him, whilst they encourage each other, by their mutual cries, to lend assistance in the general cause. Bird-catchers, aware of this singular propensity, having first limed several of the outer branches of a hedge, hide themselves near it, and imitate the cry of an Owl, when instantly all the small birds who hear it flock to the place, in hopes of their accustomed game ; but, instead of meeting a stupid and dazzled antagonist, they find themselves ensnared by an artful and unrelenting foe.

This want of sight in White Owls is compensated by their peculiar quickness of hearing ; for the latter sense is much more acute in the Owls than in most other birds.

The White Owl generally quits its hiding-place about the time of twilight, and takes a regular circuit round the fields, skimming along the ground in search of its food, which consists chiefly of field-mice and small birds. Like the rest of its tribe, it afterwards emits the bones, feathers, hair, and other indigestible parts, at the mouth, in the form of small pellets. A gentleman, on digging up a decayed pollard-ash that had been frequented by Owls for many generations, found at the bottom many bushels of this kind of refuse.

Sometimes these Owls, when they have satisfied their appetite, will, like dogs, hide the remainder of their meat. Mr. Stackhouse, of Pendarves in Cornwall, informs us that in his pleasure-grounds he often found shrew-mice lying in the gravel-walk, dead, but with no external wound. He conjectured that they had been struck by the owls, in mistake for field-mice, and that these birds, afterwards finding their error in having destroyed animals to which they have a natural antipathy, had left them untouched. This gentleman discovered, by accident, another of the antipathies of White Owls. A pig having been newly killed, he offered a tame owl a bit of the liver; but nothing, he says, could exceed the contemptuous air with which the bird spurned it from him.

The Mongul and Kalmuck Tartars pay almost divine honours to the White Owl, for they attribute to it the preservation of Jenghis Khan, the founder of their empire. That prince, with a small army, happened to be surprised and put to flight by his enemies. Compelled to seek concealment in a coppice, an owl settled on the bush under which he was hidden. This circumstance induced his pursuers not to search there, since they supposed it impossible that that bird would perch where any man was concealed. The Prince escaped; and thenceforth his countrymen held the White Owl sacred, and every one wore a plume of feathers

of this bird on his head. To this day, the Kalmucs continue the custom on all their great festivals; and some of the tribes have an idol, in the form of an owl, to which they fasten the real legs of the bird.

The Screech Owl is well known in all parts of England, from the circumstance of its frequenting churches, old houses, and uninhabited buildings; where it continues during the day, and whence, in the evening, it ranges abroad in quest of food. It received its name from the singular cry which it makes during its flight. In its repose it makes a blowing kind of noise, like the snoring of a man. The female forms no nest; but deposits her eggs, generally five or six in number, in the holes of decayed walls, or under the eaves of old buildings. While the young ones are in the nest, the male and female alternately sally out in quest of food. They are seldom absent more than five minutes, when they return with the prey in their claws; but, as it is necessary to shift it from these into their bills, for the purpose of feeding their young ones, they always alight to do that before they enter the nest. As the young owls continue for a great length of time in the nest, and are fed even long after they are able to fly, the old birds have to supply them with many hundreds of mice; on this account they are generally considered useful animals in the destruction of vermin of this description.

THE BENEVOLENT DOGS.

THERE is a country in Europe called Switzerland; and another country called Italy. These two countries are separated from each other by a chain of mountains called the Alps. There is a road across these mountains, usually termed the Passage of Great St. Bernard, and it is said that seven or eight thousand persons traverse it every year, and that six hundred have sometimes passed over it in a single day. As the summits of the Alps are covered with deep snow all the year round, it is probable that many travellers would perish with cold, or be buried under the immense avalanches that roll down their steep sides, especially during the winter season, were it not for the faithful dogs of St. Bernard.

There is a building on the summit of the mountain, called a monastery; and it is inhabited by about twelve men, called Monks. They are very kind, good people, and spend the greater part of their time in attending to strangers, giving them clothes and food if they are in want, and trying to administer to their necessities.

The monastery is surrounded by a garden, but the climate is so cold that scarcely any thing will grow in it but lettuces,

cabbages, sorrel, and spinach ; all the necessaries of life, such as bread, wine, flour, cheese, dried fruits and wood for firing, are brought from the neighbouring valleys on the backs of mules. These mules are such sure-footed creatures, that they jog up and down the steepest precipices without falling.

From the latter end of autumn till the beginning of May, trusty servants, accompanied by some of the Monks, go every day half way down the mountain in search of travellers. They take with them one or two large dogs, so trained for the purpose, that they will scent a man at a great distance, and find out the road in the thickest fogs, storms, and heaviest falls of snow. These faithful animals are of a dusky fawn colour, mixed with white spots, and are so gentle that they never offer to bite.

When a monk and his servant have traversed the paths among the glaciers, as far as is prudent, they send the dogs down the ravines where they dare not go, and where, probably, some poor traveller, having lost his way, may be perishing for want of assistance. The moment the cries of an unfortunate stranger reach the ears of the attentive dogs, they run towards the spot whence the sound proceeds, and express their joy by wagging their tails and jumping about them, as though to bid the poor sufferers take courage till they have been to procure assistance. They then hasten back to the Convent, and make signs to the monks that they

must follow them. The good monks always understand these signs; and they directly fasten a basket of biscuits and bread, and a little flask of brandy, round the neck of one of these faithful creatures; and off it sets again, plunging through the deepest snows, or climbing the summits of the highest rocks, till it arrives again at the spot where the poor man lies; and the hospitable monk, following its track, regardless of cold or danger, thus becomes the means of saving the life of a fellow creature by digging him out of the snow, chafing his frozen limbs, feeding him with the provisions contained in the little basket, and, after having restored him to warmth and animation, if possible, conveying him home, till the severity of the weather has subsided.





ANTWERP.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

ANTWERP,

CALLED by the French Anvers, and by the Spaniards Amberes, is situate in that part of Brabant named the marquisate of Antwerp, on an extended plain on the eastern side of the Scheldt, which is here of sufficient depth to enable ships of large burden to discharge their cargoes at the quay ; being 360 fathoms wide, thirty feet deep at low water, and rising fifteen feet at the height of the flood. The city owed the commanding position which it long held in the commercial world, to the decline of Bruges towards the close of the fifteenth century, and the continuance of prosperity was secured to it by the English merchants fixing their staple in it.

Ludovico Guicciardini has given in his description of the Low Countries a minute and interesting account of Antwerp in 1560, when it had attained the height of its prosperity, and of the species and extent of the commerce its merchants carried on with the different countries with which they had any intercourse. This account is too long to copy, but it contains a few particulars which it would be wrong to omit

mentioning. Armnyden, in the island of Walcheren, was the place of rendezvous for the shipping of Antwerp ; and in it, Guicciardini says, there had been 500 large ships lying at one time, bound to, or newly returned from, distant parts of the world. He adds, that it was no uncommon thing for 500 ships of all sizes to go and come in a single day ; that 10,000 carts were constantly employed in conveying merchandise to and from the neighbouring districts, besides hundreds of waggons daily coming and going with passengers ; and 500 coaches used by persons of distinction. In Guicciardini's enumeration of the different trades, he reckons 92 fishmongers, and only 78 butchers ; there were 124 goldsmiths, who at that time acted as bankers, or rather exchangers of money. The houses were computed to amount to 13,500, and the inhabitants to about 100,000. Comparatively few of the ships frequenting the port of Antwerp belonged to its citizens, its commerce being principally carried on by the ships of foreign nations. Many of its merchants were possessed of immense fortunes. Fugger, one of them, who died a little before this period, left upwards of six millions of crowns. Charles V. had, on various occasions, borrowed largely of Fugger ; and it is recorded, that the Emperor being present at an entertainment given by his mercantile friend, the latter, in order to do honour to his imperial guest, made a fire in his hall of cinnamon, and

lighted it with the bonds given by Charles in security of the debt.

The trade of this great emporium was utterly ruined, in consequence of its siege and capture by the Spaniards, under Farnese, in 1585. The terms obtained by the citizens were indeed comparatively favourable; but their aversion to the Spanish government had become insurmountable, and they lost no time in removing themselves, their commerce, and effects, to Amsterdam, Middleburgh, and other cities, where they hoped to enjoy that security and freedom they could not look for under the government of their conquerors. In order to lessen the importance of a place which had fallen into the hands of their enemies, the Hollanders built forts on the Scheldt, to intercept such ships as might attempt to go to Antwerp; and, at length, resorted to the device of rendering the river innavigable, by sinking vessels loaded with stones in its channel. That commerce which had so long enriched the Netherlands, was thus wholly transferred to Holland, and brought with it an accession of wealth and power that had the most decisive influence on the fate of the war.

Passing to a later period, we find that, in 1803, preparations were made for enlarging the harbour, in order to convert it into a port for ships of war; extensive docks and naval storehouses were at the same time begun, and having

very unexpectedly escaped destruction in 1809, the year of our unsuccessful expedition, were carried forward a considerable length before the fall of Bonaparte.

The population of this city is on the increase, and now amounts to 61,800. The inhabitants are employed in various ways; partly in jewellery, sugar-refining, and linen bleaching, and partly in the manufacturing of cotton, lace, and carpets. The diamonds cut here are much admired, and are exported in considerable quantities to the Levant; an insurance company has been established here for many years. Antwerp has been repeatedly destined to experience the calamities of war. In 1576, it was plundered by the Spaniards for three days in succession; sustained a long siege in 1585; surrendered by capitulation to the Duke of Marlborough, in 1706, after the battle of Ramilie; and was confirmed in the possession of the house of Austria, by the treaties of Rastadt and Baden, in 1714. Here was concluded, in 1715, the famous barrier treaty between the Emperor Charles VI. and the United Provinces. The French took it in 1746, but restored it at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. They made themselves masters of it, as well as of the Netherlands, in the winter of 1792; and though driven back in 1793, they re-occupied it in 1794, and retained it during the next twenty years. Part of the English army, which landed in Flanders, under Sir Thomas Graham, in the



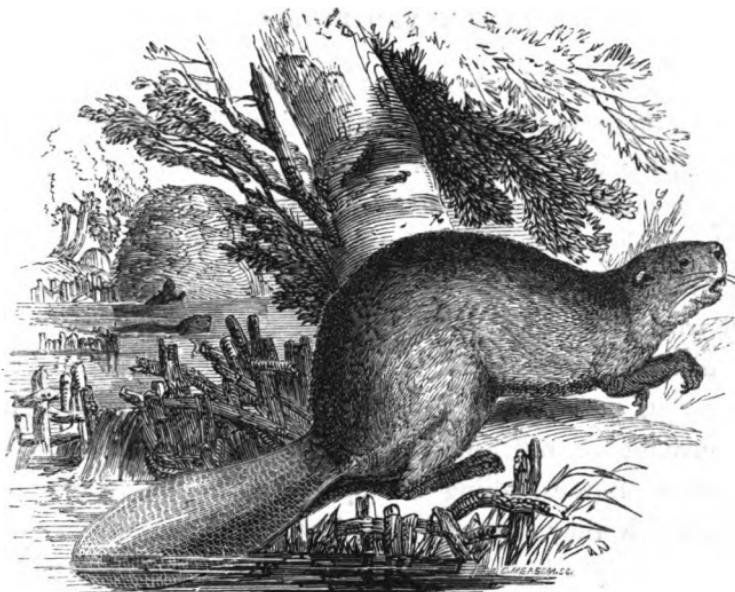
ANTWERP CATHEDRAL.

beginning of 1814, was sent to invest Antwerp, but met with an obstinate resistance from the French commandant, the well-known Carnot. The Cathedral of Antwerp, which has long been celebrated for the beauty of its architecture, and the excellence of its paintings, is represented in the annexed plate.

It is 500 feet long, 230 wide, and 360 high ; its erection occupied a period of 96 years. The spire is 466 feet in height. According to the original design, another of equal dimensions was to have been erected on the other side of the great entrance. But after having been carried up to a certain height, the work was discontinued ; yet, notwithstanding this defect in uniformity, it is thought that the want of the second spire adds to the simple grandeur of that which has been completed. The gallery to the summit of the tower is attained by an ascent of 622 steps ; and the toil of going up is well repaid by the commanding view afforded of the city beneath, the country, the Scheldt, and its neighbouring islands, stretching into the main sea. This church contains many fine paintings, mostly by Rubens : that of the taking down of our Saviour from the cross, in which the figures are as large as life, is universally considered his masterpiece. It also contains the monuments of Ambrose Capello, seventh bishop of the see ; those of Moretus, the printer, the successor to Plantin ; of Plantin himself, and of

Van Delft. Outside its walls is the tomb of Quintin Matsys, originally a blacksmith, but who, on being refused the daughter of Flors, the painter, till he had proved himself a painter also, laboured with incessant assiduity till he overcame the old man's scruples, and ultimately surpassed him in his favourite art. Near the tomb is a pump, the iron-work of which is said to have been wrought by Matsys before his transformation. In this cathedral, Henry VIII. of England, together with the then kings of France, Denmark, Portugal, Poland, Bohemia, and the Romans, were made knights of the order of the Golden Fleece, by Philip II. of Spain, in the year 1555.

The defence of the citadel of Antwerp during the late attack, which has almost destroyed its existence as a fortified place, was intrusted to a brave veteran officer of the name of Chassé, and the trenches were opened early in December, 1832.



QUADRUPED BUILDERS.

No other quadrupeds seem to possess so great a degree of natural sagacity as Beavers. They generally live in communities consisting of as many as two or three hundred together, and they inhabit extensive dwellings, which they raise to the height of six or eight feet above the surface of the water. They select, if possible, a large pond, in which they raise their houses on piles, forming them either of a circular or oval shape, with arched tops, giving them on the outside the appearance of a dome, while within they resemble an oven. The number of houses is in general from ten to

thirty. If the animals cannot find a pond to their liking, they fix on some flat piece of ground, with a stream running through it, and make this a place for their habitation.

Their first object is to form a dam. To do this it is necessary they should stop the stream, and of course that they should know in what direction the water runs. This seems a very wonderful exertion of instinct, for they always do it in the most favourable place for their purpose, and never begin at a wrong part. They drive stakes five or six feet long into the ground in different rows, and interweave them with branches of trees, filling the spaces with clay, stones, and sand, which they ram so firmly down, that though the dams are frequently a hundred feet long, they may be walked over with the greatest safety. These are ten or twelve feet thick at the base, and gradually diminish towards the top, which is seldom more than two or three feet across. They are exactly level from end to end, perpendicular towards the stream, and sloped on the outside, where grass soon grows, and renders the earth more united.

The houses are constructed with the utmost ingenuity, and cemented together, and plastered in the inside with surprising neatness. The walls are about two feet thick, and the floors so much higher than the surface of the water as always to prevent them from being flooded. Some of the houses have only one floor, others have three. The number of Beavers in

each house is from two to thirty. These sleep on the floor, which is strewed with leaves and moss, and each individual has its own place.

When they form a new settlement, these animals begin to build their houses in the summer, and it costs them a whole summer to finish their work and lay in their winter provisions; these consist principally of bark, and the tender branches of trees cut into certain lengths, and piled in heaps under the water.

Beavers seldom quit their residence unless they are disturbed, or their provisions fail. When they have continued in the same place three or four years, they frequently erect a new house annually; but sometimes merely repair their old one. It often happens that they build a new house so close to their former dwelling that they cut a communication from one to the other, and this may have given rise to the idea of their having several apartments.

During the summer-time they quit their houses and ramble about from place to place, sleeping under the covert of bushes, near the water-side. On the least noise they betake themselves to the water for security, and they have sentinels who, by a certain cry, give notice of the near approach of danger. In the winter they never stir out, except to their magazines under the water, and during that season they become excessively fat.

At the head of one of the rivers of Louisiana in a very retired place, M. du Pratz found a beaver dam. Not far from it, but hidden from the sight of the animals, he and his companions erected a hut in order to watch their operations at leisure. They waited till the moon shone bright, and then carrying in their hands branches of trees in order to conceal themselves, they went with great care and silence to the dam. M. du Pratz ordered one of the men to cut as silently as possible a gutter about a foot wide through it, and retire immediately to the hiding-place.

"As soon as the water through the gutter began to make a noise we heard a beaver come from one of the huts and plunge in. We saw him get upon the bank and clearly perceived that he examined it. He then, with all his force, gave four distinct blows or slaps with his tail, when immediately the whole colony threw themselves into the water and went to the dam. As soon as they were assembled, one of them, by muttering, appeared to issue some kind of orders, for they all immediately left the place, and went out on the banks of the pond in all directions.

"Those nearest to us were between our station and the dam, and, therefore, we could observe their operations very plainly. Some of them formed a substance resembling mortar; others carried this on their tails, which served as sledges for the purpose. I observed that they ranged themselves two and two, and that each animal of every couple

loaded his fellow. They trailed the mortar, which was pretty stiff, quite to the dam, where others were stationed to take it: these put it into the gutter and rammed it down with blows of their tails.

“ The noise of the water soon ceased and the breach was completely repaired. One of the beavers then struck two blows with his tail, and instantly they all took to the water, without any noise, and disappeared. In the morning, however, we went to the dam to see its construction, for which purpose it was necessary that we should cut part of it down. The depression of the water in consequence of this, together with the noise we made, roused the beavers again. The animals seemed much agitated, and one of them in particular was observed several times to approach the labourers, as if to examine what passed.

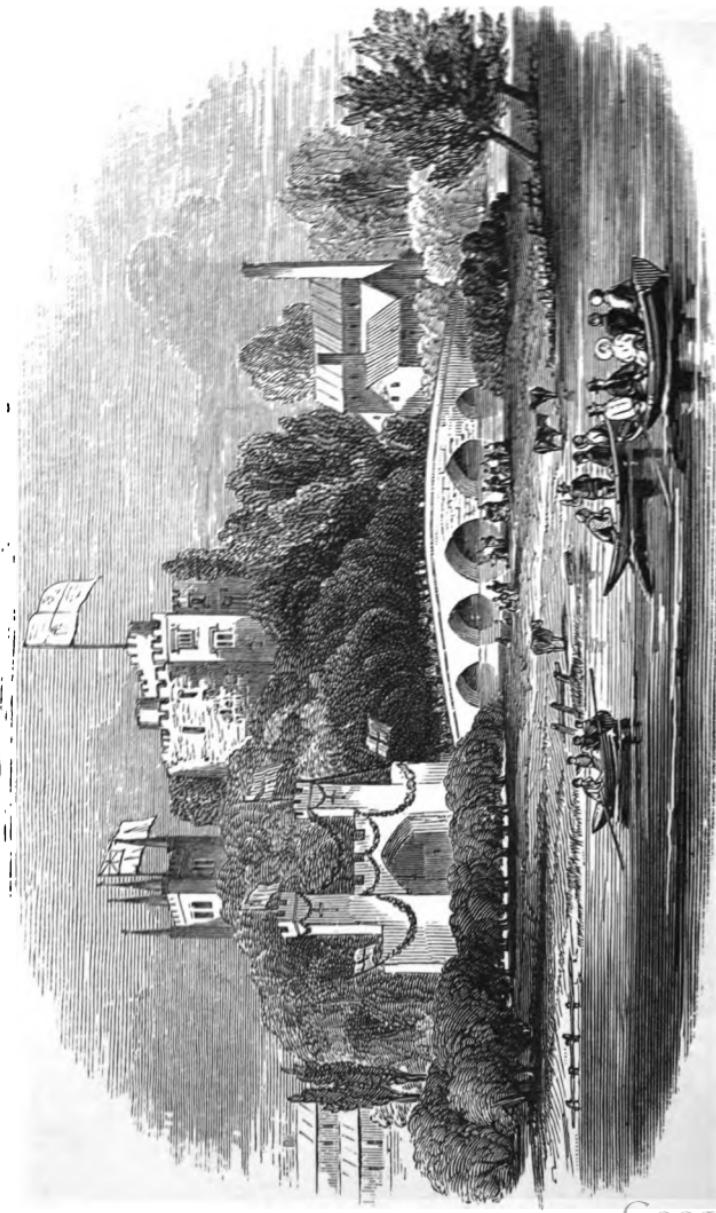
“ One of the beavers then ventured to go upon the breach, after having several times approached and returned like a spy. He surveyed the place and struck four blows, as he had done on the preceding evening, with his tail. One of those that were going to work passed close by me, and as I wanted a specimen to examine, I shot him. The noise of the gun made all the rest scamper off quicker than a hundred blows of the tail of the overseer could have done. By firing at them several times afterwards the animals were compelled to run with precipitation into the woods.”

M. du Pratz then examined their habitation; under one

of the houses he found fifteen pieces of wood with the bark in part gnawed off, apparently intended for food. And round the middle of this house, which formed a passage for the beavers to go out at, he observed no fewer than fifteen different cells.

Instances have occurred of beavers having been domesticated. Major Roderford of New York related to Professor Kalm, that for a year and a half he had in his house a tame beaver, which was suffered to run about like a dog. The Major gave him bread and sometimes fish, of which he was very greedy. As much water was put into a bowl as he wanted. All the rags and soft things he could lay hold of he dragged into a corner, where he was accustomed to sleep, and made a bed of them. The cat in the house having kittens, took possession of his bed, and he did not attempt to interrupt her. When the cat went out the beaver often took one of the kittens between his paws and held it to his breast to warm it, and seemed to dote upon it. As soon as the cat returned he always restored to her the kitten. Sometimes he grumbled, but never attempted to bite.

The skin of the beaver has hair of two kinds; that immediately next to the skin is short, close, and as fine as down; the upper hair grows more sparingly, and is both thicker and longer than the under. The former is of little value; but the flit or down is wrought into hats, caps, and other articles of dress.



TAMWORTH CASTLE.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

TAMWORTH.

LITTLE that is memorable occurs concerning the history of this borough in the ages immediately following the Norman Conquest. Dugdale observes, that the Warwickshire portion of the town "answered two marks for an aid in the 15th of Henry II., and in the 21st of Henry III. four pounds sixteen shillings for the ferme thereof." The town was an ancient demesne of the crown, and continued in the immediate hands of the king till the latter years of Henry III., when it was let to Philip Marmion, for life. It afterwards reverted to the crown, and the Warwickshire part was granted by Edward II. to the inhabitants of the borough, with a reservation of an augmented ferme rent.

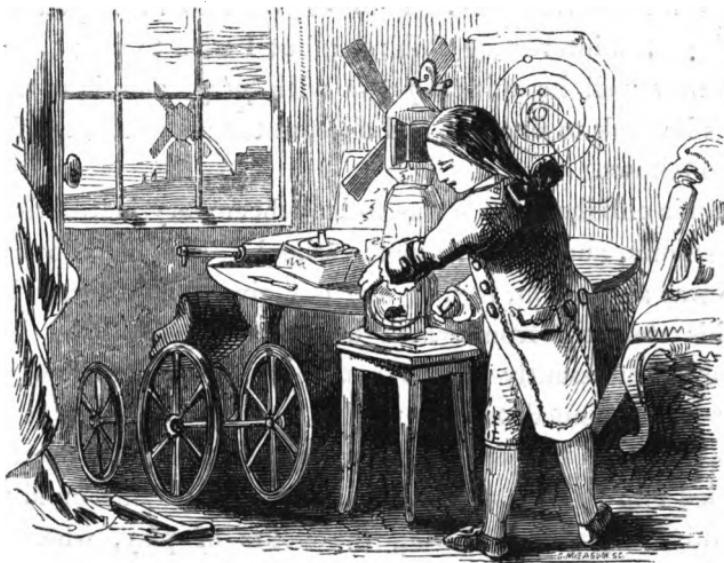
Queen Elizabeth granted a charter of incorporation on a scale peculiarly liberal, and constituted Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, the first steward of the borough. In the same reign, the weekly market, which had hitherto been held by prescription, was established by charter.

This town is well-built, and the rivers which adorn its immediate neighbourhood impart fertility to a wide extent

of meadow land. The most interesting structure in Tamworth is the castle. This building stands on an artificial mount, formerly connected with the dungeon of the Lady Ethelfleda, and an edifice situate nearly on this spot was bestowed on Robert Marmion by William the Conqueror. The Marmions remained lords of the castle till the 20th of the reign of Henry VI., and they were followed by the Comptons. The Marquis of Townshend is now proprietor in right of Lady Charlotte Compton Baroness de Ferrers, daughter of the Earl of Northampton.

The exterior of this venerable castle is still in a good state of preservation, but the inside has suffered much from age and neglect. The rooms are numerous, but ill suited to the liberal domestic manners of the present era, and the whole fabric is chiefly attractive as a monument of antiquity. In this point of view it is calculated to make a deep impression on the feelings of the examiner.

The present distinguished parliamentary leader, Sir Robert Peel, Bart., has represented Tamworth for a lengthened period, and has been one of its greatest benefactors. His seat, Drayton Manor, is about one mile from the town.



THE LITTLE PHILOSOPHER AND GREAT MAN.

My little friends, the great Sir Isaac Newton, the most distinguished philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer of modern times, was once a little boy. You perhaps will smile at my telling you this, and may say—Who does not know that? My object in saying this is, that you may not be discouraged from thinking of great things because you are little children. You may, perhaps, have the foundation of

greatness in you, upon which you may build a lasting fame, like Sir Isaac Newton's. I do not wish to make you dull, spiritless, uninteresting children; but I wish to point out to you how well he mixed *profit* with *play*, and how much pains he took to improve and chasten the amusements of his schoolfellows.

In his childhood he seems to have been very inattentive to his studies, and very low in the school. The boy, however, who was above him, having one day given him a severe kick on his stomach, from which he suffered great pain, Isaac laboured incessantly till he got above him, and from that time he continued to rise till he was the head boy in the school. From the habits of application, which this incident had led him to form, the peculiar character of his mind was speedily displayed. During the hours of play, when the other boys were occupied with their amusements, his mind was engrossed with mechanical contrivances, either in imitation of something which he had seen, or in execution of some original conception of his own. For this purpose he provided himself with little saws, hatchets, hammers, and all sorts of tools, which he acquired the art of using with singular dexterity. The principal pieces of mechanism which he thus constructed were a wind-mill, a water-clock, and a carriage put in motion by the person who sat in it. When a wind-mill was erected near Grantham, on the road to Gun-

nearby, Isaac frequently attended the operations of the workmen, and acquired such a thorough knowledge of machinery that he completed a working model of it, which excited universal admiration. This model was frequently placed on the top of the house in which he lodged at Grantham, and was put in motion by the action of the wind upon its sails. Not content with this exact imitation of the original machine, he conceived the idea of driving it by animal power, and for this purpose he enclosed in it a mouse, which he called the miller, and which, by acting upon a sort of tread-wheel, gave motion to the machine. According to some accounts, the mouse was made to advance by pulling a string attached to its tail, while others allege that the power of the little agent was called forth by its unavailing attempt to reach a portion of corn placed above the wheel.

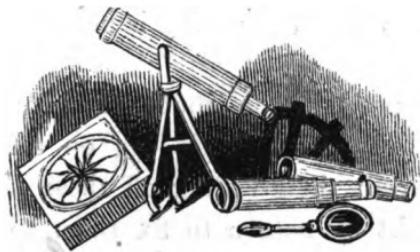
His water-clock was formed out of a box which he had solicited from the brother of Mrs. Clarke, with whom he boarded. It was about four feet high, and of a proportional breadth, somewhat like a common house-clock. The index of the dial-plate was turned by a piece of wood, which either fell or rose by the action of dropping water; as it stood in his own bed-room he supplied it every morning with the requisite quantity of water, and it was used as a clock by Mr. Clarke's family, and remained in the house long after its inventor had quitted Grantham. His mechanical carriage

was a vehicle with four wheels, which was put in motion by a handle moved by the person who sat in it; but, like Merlin's chair, it seems to have been used only on the smooth surface of a floor, and not fitted to overcome the inequalities of a road. Although Newton was at this time "a sober, silent, thinking lad," who scarcely ever joined in the ordinary games of his schoolfellows, yet he took great pleasure in providing them with amusements of a scientific character. He introduced into the school the flying of paper-kites; and he is said to have been at great pains in determining their best forms and proportions, and in ascertaining the position and number of the points by which the string should be attached. He made also paper lanterns, by the light of which he went to school in the winter mornings; and he frequently attached these lanterns to the tails of his kites in a dark night, so as to inspire the country people with the belief that they were comets.

His subsequent labours in science were very abundant. When little more than twenty-three years old, he had made some of the greatest and most original discoveries in the pure mathematics; and he added to this honour that of being a most patient, faithful, and sagacious interpreter of nature. Optics, chemistry, electricity, but especially astronomy, engaged his attention. Of him it has been truly and honourably said, "He would take up with nothing which

wanted evidence, and he kept by his demonstrations, and his measurements, and his proofs; and if it be true that 'he who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city,' there was won, in the solitude of his chamber, many a repeated victory over himself, which should give a brighter lustre to his name than all the conquests he has made on the field of discovery, or than all the splendour of his positive achievements."

This great man, who, as I have told you, was once a little boy, was buried in Westminster Abbey, and at his funeral the pall was carried over his coffin by the Lord Chancellor, two dukes, and three earls.



BIRD-CATCHING AT ST. KILDA.

ST. KILDA is one of the Hebrides, a cluster of islands to the north-west of Scotland. The inhabitants are very poor, and live chiefly by fishing and catching wild fowl. This last employment is a very dangerous one, but I think you will like to hear how they manage. The shores of the island consist of steep, rocky precipices, so steep that it would be almost impossible to climb up and down them. Many wild birds, such as Solan geese, Ailsa cocks, strannies, awks, and murrits, build their nests down in the holes and cavities of these rocks, and lay their eggs there. Now, as some of these eggs are good to eat, and constitute the food of the inhabitants of St. Kilda, the thing is how to obtain them. I will tell you.

The awks do not take the trouble to make a nest as other birds do, but lay each a single egg on the ledges of the rocks. To prevent their rolling off these ledges the birds have been taught by nature to fix them to the bare rock with a sort of cement.

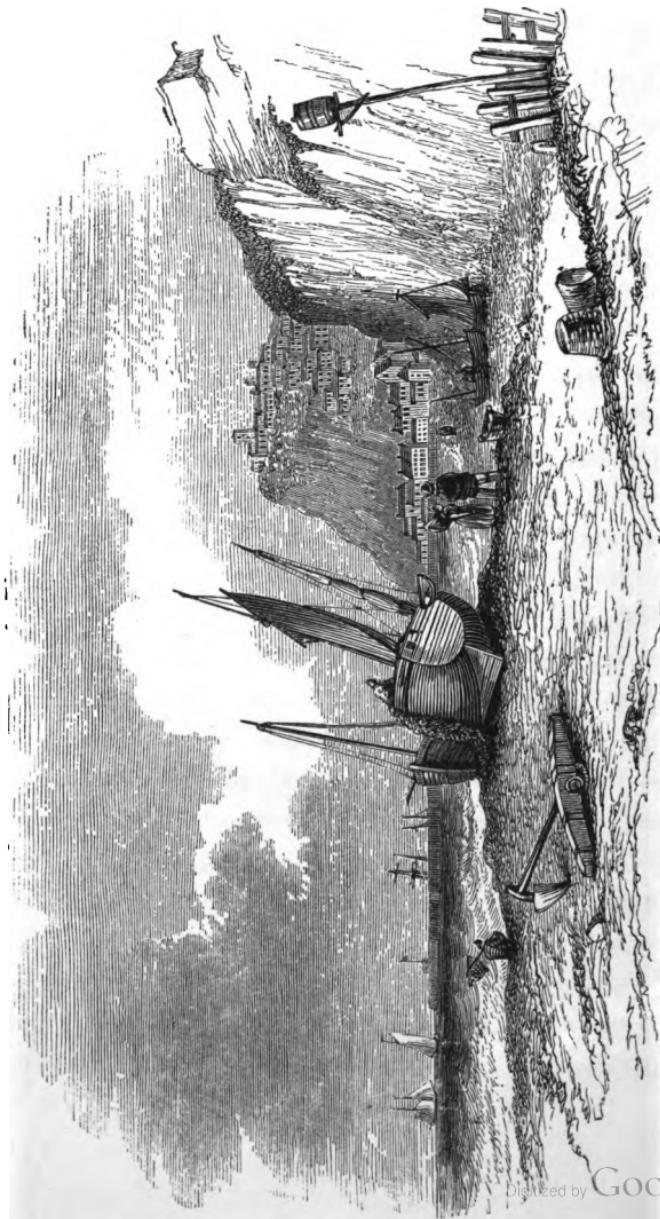
At the proper season of the year when the people know that there are plenty of eggs to be had, they fasten a rope of

strips of hide quite tight round a man's waist, and let him down the rock, as a bucket is let down into a well, six or seven of them holding the other end, till he reaches the cavity in which the eggs are to be found. Then he puts them into a basket that is tied to a string provided for the purpose, and it is drawn up by the people who are at the top of the rock, as often as it is filled. Sometimes they tie one end of the rope to a tree, and the man who sits at the other end swings himself from one part of the rock to another, pushing himself away by his feet.

In Norway the bird-catchers, or rather egg-takers, have a different way. Sometimes several men go under the cliffs in a boat. One has a rope tied round him, and a pole in his hand with a hook at one end; he fixes this hook in a cleft of the rock above, and draws himself up, climbing with both his hands along the pole. The men who are below in the boat, put the hooks of their poles against his feet, or to his girdle, and help to push him up. When he has got to a place where he can stand firm he lets down the rope, one end of which is fastened to himself, and so helping to draw up another man, who is supported in his turn by the poles of the men below. Thus three or four men get up, climbing and helping one another, from some parts of the rocks to others. But it is a very hazardous employment; for sometimes they fall down and are killed; and sometimes they pull

one another down, and sometimes loose stones fall upon them and crush them to pieces. This narrative should teach us a lesson of patience and contentment. The poor creatures who inhabit these islands obtain all the food they eat at the peril of their lives, and yet they pursue their way without repining, while we possess comparative luxuries, and are some of us dissatisfied.





FOLKESTONE.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

FOLKESTONE

FROM the earliest times was a place of importance. The Romans had a tower here on a high hill, of the intrenchments of which there are yet some remains. By the Saxons it was called Folcestone. There was a monastery which had been destroyed by the Danes, during or before the time of Athelstane. There was also a castle built by the Saxon kings of Kent, and rebuilt by the Normans, which has been in later times nearly all destroyed, with the cliff on which it stood, by the encroachments of the sea. All that remains is a small part of the wall of the church. Folkestone is situated on the shore of the English Channel, partly in a hollow between two cliffs, and partly on the west cliff.

Many boats belong to it, which are engaged in the mackerel and herring fisheries. The church, which stands at the west end of the town, is a cross church of early English character, having a tower in the centre supported by strong piers. The western end was partly blown down by a hurricane in December 1705, and when rebuilt the

dimensions were contracted. There was a Benedictine priory at Folkestone: a gateway in the wall, and some part of the foundations, are all that now remain.

There is a pier harbour formed at an expense of 50,000*l.*, but it is so choked up with shingle as to be accessible to small coasting vessels only. The beach is favourable for bathing, and in summer a few visitors resort thither for that purpose. The village of Sandgate, however, two miles west of it, is a far more favourite and frequented resort. There is a strong modern battery on the heights, and the line of coast is defended by three Martello towers.

Folkestone has been a member of the Cinque port of Dover from a period previous to the reign of Henry I. The Reform Act associated Folkestone with the borough of Hythe in the privilege of returning one member to parliament. The town has suffered much at different periods from the encroachments of the sea.

William Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, was a native of Folkestone, having been born there on the 1st of April, 1578. The charity school, endowed by his nephew, was built from a bequest made by him for the purpose.



INSECT ISLAND MAKERS.

You have no doubt seen, my little reader, certain singular substances of a branching and sponge-like nature in the British Museum, or in some of the curiosity shops about London. These are coral, the production of small insects called Polypes. If you examine these masses you will find that they abound with little holes. From its assuming a branch-like form; and because it was seen to increase in size,

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from time to time, coral was taken for a marine plant before its nature was fully examined. The openings on this branching kind are dotted about like stars.

Sometimes coral is in large round masses in the form of the brain of an animal, which masses are called brain-stones. The openings are then long holes placed in two rows between high ridges.

A third kind is found, consisting of thin pieces, thinner than writing-paper placed on edge, and spreading out from a centre; the openings are then plain furrows, running from the middle to the outside.

There is also the red coral, of which beads and other trinkets are made, which is found principally in the Mediterranean Sea, and several other sorts more or less rare.

This curious substance extends over hundreds of miles in various parts of the tropical seas, forming islands of different shapes. I have told you that this substance is the production of small insects, and I will now tell you something about these insects, which are called Polypes. These Polypes are a kind of animal apparently without either bones or shells, or heads or brains. They have very large mouths surrounded by a great number of tentacula or feelers, which are threads of flesh, possessing the sense of touch in great perfection, and to these tentacula they owe the name Polypes, which comes from two Greek words signifying many feet.

Most kinds of Polypes seldom move from one place to another in any way, but stick themselves upon a rock by means of a flat part of their bodies, and there remain.

If you have ever been to the sea-coast you have no doubt seen the sea anemones, or sea-flowers, as they are called, carried round by the fish people to show to their customers. They are proper Polypes, and the scientific name for them is *Actinia*.

Now the coral builders are all of the same general character as the *Actinia* in the construction of their bodies, their various colours, great mouth surrounded by feelers, and habits of taking their food.

I cannot tell you, neither can any one else, in what manner these little workmen perform their work. It is only certain that they have some peculiar power of forming the particles of carbonate of lime, contained in the sea-water, into the various forms I have described to you. When the coral is in progress it is coated with a soft gluey substance, and over the star-like clusters of openings there may be seen, when the creatures are hungry, little rosettes of beautiful tentacula or feelers. There is another sort of branch coral where the animal always lives at the end of the branch, the whole of which it has to itself; and when its tentacula are extended each may be likened to the firework called Catherine-wheel, when exploding at the end of a stick.

Captain Flinders, in his voyage to Terra Australis, has given the public many particulars in reference to the labours of the coral insects, which are exceedingly interesting. Speaking of a coralline island, he says, that "at no very distant period of time it was one of those banks produced by the washing up of sand and broken coral, of which most reefs afford instances, and those of Torres Strait a great many. These banks are in different stages of progress; some are become islands, but not yet habitable; some are above high-water-mark, but destitute of vegetation; whilst others are overflowed with every returning tide.

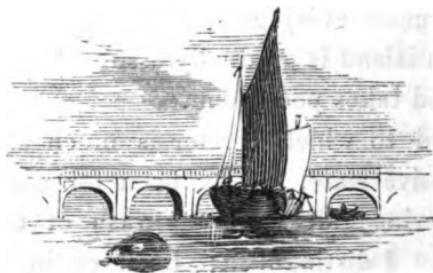
" It seems to me, that when the animalcules which form the corals at the bottom of the ocean cease to live, their structures adhere to each other, by virtue either of the glutinous remains within, or of some property in the salt water; and the interstices being gradually filled up with sand, and broken pieces of coral washed up by the sea, which also adhere, a mass of rock is at length formed. Future races of these animalcules erect their habitations upon the rising bank, and die in their turn, thus elevating the monument of their wonderful labours. The care taken to work perpendicularly in the early stages, marks a surprising instinct in these diminutive creatures. Their wall of coral, for most part in situations where the winds are constant, having arrived at the surface, affords a shelter, to leeward of which their

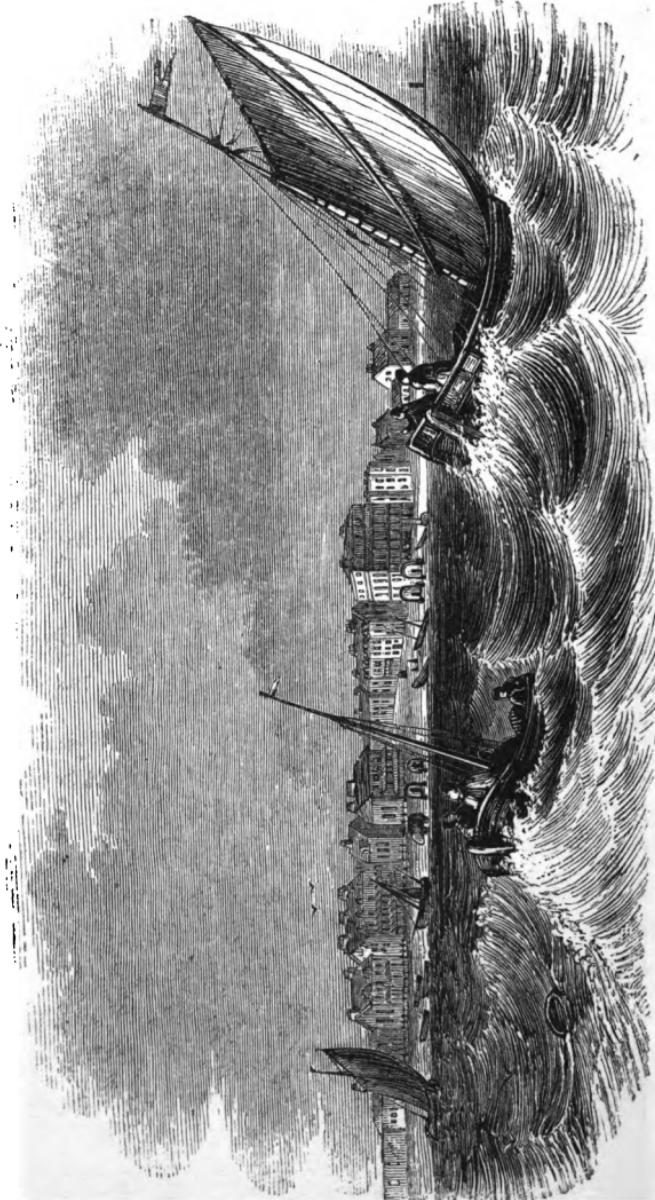
infant colonies may be safely sent forth; and to this instinctive foresight it seems to be owing, that the windward side of a reef exposed to the open sea, is generally, if not always, the highest part, and rises almost perpendicularly, sometimes from the depth of two hundred, and perhaps many more fathoms. To be constantly covered with water, seems necessary to the existence of the animalcules; for they do not work, except in holes upon the reef, beyond low-water-mark; but the coral, sand, and other broken remnants thrown up by the sea, adhere to the rock, and form a solid mass with it, as high as the common tides reach. That elevation being reached, the future remnants, being rarely covered, lose their adhesive property; and, remaining in a loose state, form what is usually called a quay upon the tops of the reef. The new bank is not long before it is visited by sea birds; salt plants take root upon it, and a soil begins to be formed; a cocoa-nut is thrown on the shore; land birds visit it, and deposit the seeds of shrubs and trees; every high tide, and still more every gale, adds something to the bank; the form of an island is gradually assumed; and, last of all, man comes, and takes possession.

“ The island to which I refer is much advanced in the above progressive state, having been for many years above the highest spring tides, or the wash of the surf in the heaviest gales. I distinguished, however, in the rock which

forms its basis, the sand, coral, and shells formerly thrown up, in a more or less perfect state of cohesion; small pieces of wood, pumice stone, and other extraneous bodies, which chance had mingled with the calcareous substances when the cohesion began, were enclosed in the rock; and, in some cases, were still separable from it without much force. The upper part of the island is a mixture of the same substances in a loose state, with a little vegetable soil, and is covered with a variety of trees and shrubs, which give food to parroquets, pigeons, and some other birds, to whose ancestors, it is probable, the island was originally indebted for this vegetation."

There were once coral islands where England is now, for a great many of the formations contain fossil coral in great quantities. It is indeed most likely, that there are large tracts in every part of the world which owe their existence to the labours of Polypes.





WORTHING.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

WORTHING

Is surrounded, at the distance of not quite a mile, by the uninterrupted chain of the Sussex Downs, which completely exclude, even in the winter months, the chilling blasts of the north and east winds, the thermometer being generally higher here than at Brighton, and on an average between two and three degrees above what it is in London.

Worthing possesses other powerful recommendations—a facility of bathing in the most stormy weather, and an extent of sand as level as a carpet, of at least seven miles towards the west and three to the east, on which the pedestrian or horseman may enjoy the full refreshment of the sea breeze during the influx of the tide, without interruption.

Worthing, not many years ago, was little better than a collection of fishermen's huts and smugglers' dens, which have now given place to long rows of superb buildings, calculated to accommodate some of the best families in the kingdom.

Excepting in its centre the houses are mostly arranged in regular terraces, though many are isolated and interspersed

with fields and gardens. The ranges of buildings fronting the sea are generally faced with cream-coloured brick, made from a peculiar clay found in the vicinity, and the town is well paved, lighted, and has an ample supply of water. The chapel of ease, erected in 1812 at an expense of 12,000*l.*, is a very neat edifice with a Doric portico. Here, also are chapels for Independents and Wesleyans, to which Sunday Schools are attached, with well attended National Schools for both sexes, supported by subscription; a Savings' Bank, and a small but elegant theatre erected in 1807. The market-place consists of ranges of stalls built around a square area. The Esplanade, a raised conservatory, extends along the shore the whole length of the town: near its western extremity are the Royal Baths, comprising two complete suites of apartments. It is almost superfluous to add that it has numerous hotels, with assembly rooms, libraries, news and reading-rooms, and other accommodations, common to a well-attended watering-place. No manufacture of any kind is carried on, but the mackerel and herring fisheries are usually very productive, and contribute largely to the supply of the London markets. An annual fair is held on the 20th July; market day, Saturday; and every alternate Wednesday for corn.



STRIVE AND THRIVE.

THEODORE was a boy of lively parts and engaging manners; but he had the failing of being extremely impatient in his temper, and inclined to extremes. He was ardent in all his pursuits, but could bear no disappointment; and if the least thing went wrong, he threw up what he was about in a pet, and could not be prevailed upon to resume it. His father (Mr. Carleton) had given him a bed in a garden, which he

had cultivated with great delight. The borders were set with double daisies of different colours, next to which was a row of auriculas and polyanthus. Beyond were stocks and other taller flowers and shrubs ; and a beautiful damask rose graced the centre. This rose was just budding, and Theodore watched its daily progress with great interest. One unfortunate day, the door of the garden being left open, a drove of pigs entered, and began to riot on the herbs and flowers. An alarm being sounded, Theodore and the servant boy rushed upon them smacking their whips. The whole herd in affright took their course across Theodore's flower-bed, on which some of them had before been grazing. Stocks, daisies, and auriculas were all trampled down or torn up ; and, what was worst of all, a large old sow ran directly over the beautiful rose-tree, and broke off its stem level with the ground. When Theodore came up and beheld all the mischief, and especially his favourite rose-tree destroyed, rage and grief choked his utterance. After standing awhile, the picture of despair, he snatched up a spade that stood near, and with furious haste dug over the whole bed, and buried all the relics of his flowers deep under the soil. This exertion being ended he burst into tears and silently left the garden.

His father, who beheld the scene at a distance, though somewhat diverted at the boy's childish violence, yet began

seriously to reflect on the future consequences of such a temper, if suffered to grow up without restraint. He said nothing to him at the time, but in the afternoon he took him a walk into the neighbouring parish. There was a large wide common, and at the skirts of it a neat farm-house, with fields lying round it, all well fenced, and cultivated in the best manner. The air was sweetened with the bean-flower and clover. An orchard of fine young fruit trees lay behind the house; and before it a little garden, gay with all the flowers of the season. A stand of bee-hives was on the southern side, sheltered by a thick hedge of honeysuckle and sweet briar. The farm-yard was stocked with pigs and poultry. A herd of cows, with full udders, was just coming home to be milked. Every thing wore the aspect of plenty and good management. The charms of the scene struck Theodore very forcibly, and he expressed his pleasure in the warmest terms. This place, said his father, belongs to a man who is the greatest example I know of patient fortitude bearing up against misfortune; and all you see is the reward of his own perseverance. I am a little acquainted with him; and we will go in and get a draught of milk, and try if we can prevail upon him to tell us his story. Theodore willingly accompanied his father. They were received by the farmer with cordial frankness. After they were seated, "Mr. Hardman," said Mr. Carleton, "I have often heard of part of

your adventures, but never had a regular account of the whole. If you will favour me and my little boy with the story of them we shall think ourselves much obliged to you." "Lack-a-day! sir," said he, "there's little in them worth telling of, as far as I know. I have had my ups and downs in the world, to be sure, but so have many men beside. However, if you wish to hear about them, they are at your service; and I can't say but it gives me pleasure sometimes to talk over old matters, and think how much better things have turned out than might have been expected." "Now, I am of opinion," said Mr. C., "that from your spirit and perseverance a good conclusion might always have been expected." "You are pleased to compliment, sir," replied the farmer, "but I will begin without more words."

"You may perhaps have heard that my father was a man of good estate. He thought of nothing, poor man! but how to spend it; and he had the uncommon luck to spend it twice over. For when he was obliged to sell it the first time, it was bought in by a relation, who left it him again by his will. But my poor father was not a man to take warning. He fell to living as he had done before, and just made his estate and his life hold out together. He died at the age of five and forty, and left his family beggars. I believe he would not have taken to drinking as he did, had it not been for his impatient temper, which made him fret and

vex himself for every trifle, and then he had no alternative but to drown his care in liquor.

“ It was my lot to be taken by my mother’s brother, who was master of a merchant ship. I served him as an apprentice several years, and underwent a good deal of the usual hardship of a sailor’s life. He had just made me his mate in a voyage up the Mediterranean, when we had the misfortune to be wrecked on the coast of Morocco. The ship struck at some distance from shore, and we lay a long stormy night with the waves dashing over us, expecting every moment to perish. My uncle and several of the crew died with fatigue and want, and by morning but four of us were left alive. My companions were so disheartened, that they thought of nothing but submitting to their fate. For my part, I thought life still worth struggling for ; and the weather having become calmer, I persuaded them to join me in making a kind of raft, by the help of which, with much toil and danger, we reached the land. Here we were seized by the barbarous inhabitants, and carried up the country for slaves to the emperor. The thought of perpetual servitude, together with the hard treatment we met with, quite overcame my poor companions. They drooped and died one after another. I still thought it not impossible to mend my condition, and perhaps to recover my freedom. We worked about twelve hours in the day, and had one holiday in the

week. I employed my leisure time in learning to make mats and flag baskets, in which I soon became so expert as to have a good many for sale, and thereby got a little money to purchase better food and several small conveniences. I learned the language of the country, and might have passed my time comfortably enough, could I have accommodated myself to their manners and religion, and forget my native land. I saved all I could in order to purchase my freedom, but the ransom was so high, that I had little prospect of being able to do it for some years to come. A circumstance, however, happened which brought it about at once. Some villains one night laid a plot to murder my master and plunder his house. I slept in a little shed in the garden where the tools lay; and being awakened by a noise, I saw four men break through the fence, and walk up an alley towards the house. I crept out with a spade in my hand, and silently followed them. They made a hole with instruments in the house-wall big enough for a man to enter at. Two of them had got in, and the third was beginning to enter, when I rushed forward, and with the blow of my spade clove his skull, and gave the other such a stroke on the shoulder as partially disabled him. I then made a loud outcry to alarm the family. My master and his son who lay in the house, got up, and having let me in, we secured the two others after a sharp conflict, in which I received a severe

wound with a dagger. My master, who looked upon me as his preserver, had all possible care taken of me ; and, as soon as I was cured, made me a present of my liberty. He would fain have kept me with him; but my mind was so much bent on returning to my native country, that I immediately set out to the nearest seaport, and took my passage in a vessel going to Gibraltar.

“ From this place I returned in the first ship for England. As soon as we arrived in the Downs, and I was rejoicing at the sight of the white cliffs, a man-of-war’s boat came alongside, and pressed into the king’s service all of us who were seamen. I could not but think it hard that this should be my welcome at home after a long slavery ; but there was no remedy. I resolved to do my duty in my station, and leave the rest to Providence. I was abroad during the remainder of the war, and saw many a stout fellow sink under disease and despondence. My knowledge of seamanship got me promoted to the post of a petty officer, and at the peace I was paid off, and received a pretty sum for wages and prize money. With this I set off for London. I had experienced too much distress from want, to be inclined to squander away my money, so I put it into a banker’s hands, and began to look out for some new way of life.

“ Unfortunately there were some things of which I had no more experience than a child, and the tricks of London were

among these. An advertisement, offering extraordinary advantages to a partner in a commercial concern who could bring a small capital, tempted me to make inquiry about the matter, and I was soon cajoled by a plausible, artful fellow to venture my whole stock in it. The business was a manufacture about which I knew nothing at all ; but as I was not afraid of my labour, I set about working as they directed me, with great diligence, and thought all was going on prosperously. One morning, on coming to the office, I found my partners had decamped ; and the same day I was arrested for a considerable sum due by the partnership. It was in vain for me to think of getting bail, so I was obliged to go to prison. Here I should have been half starved, but for my Moorish trade of mat making, by the help of which I bettered my condition for some months, when the creditors, finding that nothing could be got out of me, suffered me to be set at liberty.

“ I was now in the wide world without a farthing or a friend, but I thanked God that I had health and limbs left. I did not choose to trust the sea again, but preferred my other new trade of gardening ; so I applied to a nurseryman near town, and was received as a day labourer. I set myself cheerfully to work, taking care to be in the grounds the first man in the morning and the last at night. I acquainted my employer with all the practices I had observed in Morocco,

and got him, in return, to instruct me in his own. In time I came to be considered as a skilful workman, and was advanced to higher wages. My affairs were in a flourishing state. I was well fed and comfortably lodged, and saved money into the bargain. About this time I became acquainted with a young woman in service, very sensible and well behaved, who seemed well suited for a wife to a working man. I ventured to make an offer to her, which proved not disagreeable; and after we had calculated a little how we were to live, we married. I took a cottage with an acre or two of land to it, and my wife's savings furnished our house and bought a cow. All my leisure time I spent upon my piece of ground, which I made very productive, and the profits of my cow, with my wages, supported us very well. No person, I think, could be happier than I was after a hard day's work, by my own fireside, with my wife beside me, and my little infant on my knee.

After this way of life had lasted two or three years, a gentleman who had dealt largely with my master for young plants, asked him if he could recommend an honest industrious man for a tenant, upon some land that he had lately taken in from the sea. My master, willing to do me a kindness, mentioned me. I was tempted by the proposal, and going down to view the premises, I took a farm upon a lease at a low rent, and removed my family and goods to it, one

hundred and fifty miles from London. There was ground enough for money, but much was left to be done for it in draining, manuring, and fencing. Then it required more stock than I was able to furnish ; so, though unwilling, I was obliged to borrow some money of my landlord, who let me have it at moderate interest. I began with a good heart, and worked late and early to put things in the best condition. My first misfortune was that the place proved unhealthy to us. I fell into a lingering ague, which pulled me down much, and hindered my business. My wife became ill with a slow fever, and so did our eldest child (we now had a second child). The eldest child died ; and what with grief and illness, my wife had much ado to recover. Then the rot got among my sheep, and carried off the best part of my flock. I bore up against distress as well as I could ; and by the kindness of my landlord was enabled to bring things tolerably about again. We regained our health, and began to be seasoned to the climate. As we were cheering ourselves with the prospect of better times, a dreadful storm arose — it was one night in February — I shall never forget it — which drove the spring tide with such fury against our sea-banks, that they gave way. The water rushed in with such force, that all was presently a sea. Two hours before daylight, I was awaked by the noise of the waves dashing against our house, and bursting in at the door. My wife had been ill

about a month, and she and I, and the two children, slept on a ground floor. We had but time to carry the children upstairs before all was afloat in the room. When day appeared we could see nothing from the windows but water. All the out-houses, ricks, and utensils were swept away, and all the cattle and sheep drowned. The sea kept rising, and the force of the current bore so hard against our house, that we thought every moment it must fall. We clasped our babies in our arms, and expected nothing but present death. At length we saw a boat coming to us. With a good deal of difficulty it got under our window, and took us in with a servant maid and boy. A few clothes was all the property we saved ; and we had not left the house half an hour, before it fell, and in a minute nothing was to be seen of it. Not only the farm-house but the farm itself was gone.

I was now again a ruined man, and what was worse, I had three partners in my ruin, my wife and two children. My wife and I looked at one other, and then at our little ones, and wept. Neither of us had a word of comfort to say. At last, thought I, this country is not Morocco, however ; here are good souls that will pity our case, and perhaps relieve us ; then I have a character, and a pair of hands ; things are bad, but they might have been worse. I took my wife by the hand and knelt down : she did the same. I thanked God for his mercy in saving our lives, and prayed that he would

continue to protect us. We rose up with lightened hearts, and were able to talk calmly about our condition. It was my desire to return to my former master, the nursery-man ; but how to convey my family so far without money, was the difficulty. Indeed, I had, I may say, less than nothing, for I owed a good deal to my landlord. He came down upon the news of the misfortune, and though his own losses were heavy, he not only forgave my debt and released me from all obligations, but made me a small present. Some charitable neighbours did the like ; but I was most of all affected by the kindness of our late maid-servant, who insisted upon our accepting of a crown piece, which she had saved out of her wages. Poor soul ! we had always treated her like one of ourselves, and she felt for us like one.

As soon as we had got some necessaries, and the weather was tolerable, we set out on our long march. My wife carried her infant in her arms, I took the bigger child upon my back, and a bundle of clothes in my hand. We could walk but a few miles a day, but we now and then got a lift in an empty waggon or cart, which was a great help to us. One day we met with a farmer returning with his team from market, who let us ride, and entered into conversation with me. I told him of my adventures, in which he seemed much interested ; and learning that I was skilled in managing trees, he informed me that a nobleman in his

neighbourhood was making great plantations, and would very likely be glad to engage me ; and he offered to carry us to the place. As all I was seeking was a living by my labour, I thought the sooner I got it the better ; so I thankfully accepted his offer. He took us to the nobleman's steward, and made known our case. The steward wrote to my old master for a character, and receiving a favourable one, he hired me as a principal manager of a new plantation, and settled me and my family in a snug cottage near it. He advanced us some money for a little furniture and present subsistence, and we had once more a HOME. O, Sir ! how many blessings are contained in that word to those who have known the want of it !

I entered upon my new employment with as much satisfaction as if I was taking possession of an estate. My wife had enough to do in taking care of the house and children ; so it lay with me to provide for all, and I may say that I was not idle. Besides my weekly pay from the steward, I contrived to make a little money at leisure times by pruning and dressing gentlemen's fruit trees. I was allowed a piece of waste ground behind the house for a garden, and I spent a good deal of labour in bringing it into order. My old master sent me down for a present some choice young trees and flower roots, which I planted, and they threw wonderfully. Things went on almost as well as I could desire ; the

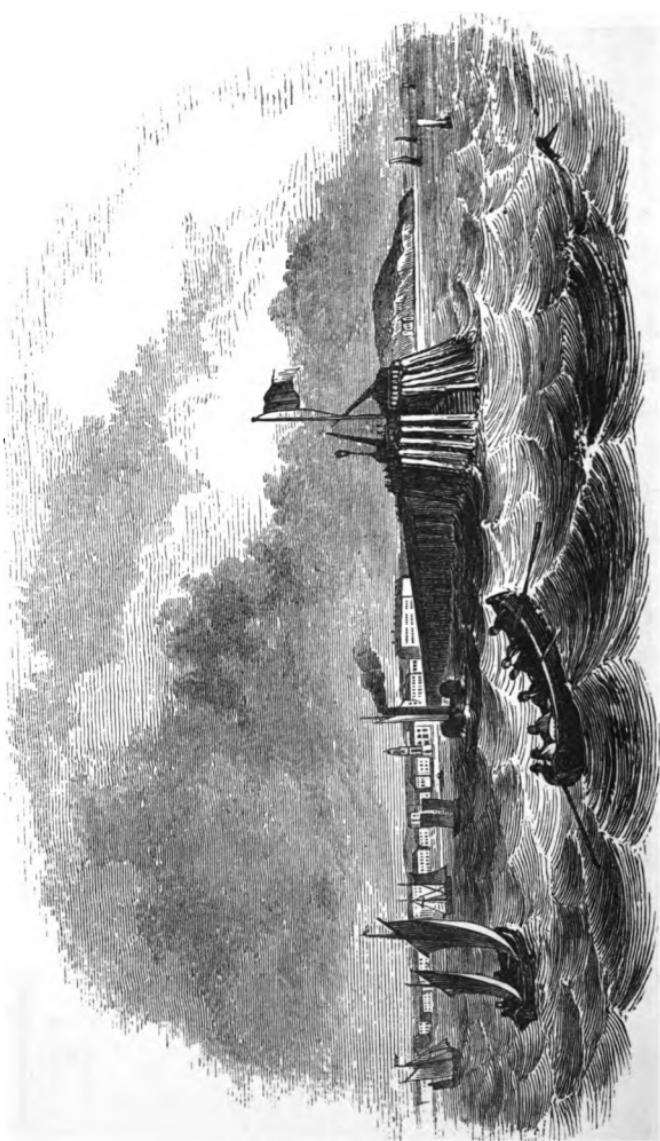
situation being dry and healthy, my wife recovered her lost bloom, and the children sprung up like my plants. I began to hope that I was almost out of the reach of further misfortune ; but it was not so ordered.

I had been three years in this situation, and my family was increased by another child, when my landlord died. He was succeeded by a very dissipated young man, deep in debt, who presently put a stop to the planting and improving of the estate, and sent orders to turn off all the workmen. This was a great blow to me ; however, I still hoped to be allowed to keep my little house and garden, and I thought I could then maintain myself as a nurseryman and gardener ; but a new steward was sent down, with directions to rack the tenants to the utmost. He asked me as much rent for the place as if I had found the garden ready made to my hands ; and when I told him it was impossible for me to pay it, he gave me notice to quit immediately. He would neither suffer me to take away my trees and plants nor allow me any thing for them. His plan, I found, was to put in a favourite of his own, and set him up at my expence. I remonstrated against this cruel injustice, but could obtain nothing but hard words. As I saw it would be the ruin of me to be turned out in that manner, I determined, rather hastily, to go up to London and plead my cause with my new landlord. I took a sorrowful leave of my family, and

walking to the next market town, I got a place on the outside of the stage coach. When we were within thirty or forty miles of London, the coachman overturned the carriage, and I pitched directly on my head, and was taken up senseless. Nobody knew any thing about me; so I was carried to the next village, where the overseer had me taken to the parish workhouse: here I lay a fortnight, much neglected, before I came to my senses. As soon as I became sensible of my condition, I was almost distracted in thinking of the distress my poor wife, who was in very ill health, must be in on my account, in not hearing any thing of me. I lay another fortnight before I was fit to travel, for, besides the wound on my head, I had a broken collar-bone, and several bruises. My money had somehow all got out of my pocket, and I had no other means of getting away than being passed to my own parish. I returned in sad plight indeed, and found my wife very ill in bed. My children were crying about her, and almost starving. We should now have been quite lost, had I not raised a little money by selling our furniture; for I was yet unable to work. As soon as my wife had somewhat recovered, we were forced to quit our house. I cried like a child on leaving my blooming garden and flourishing plantations, and was almost tempted to demolish them rather than another should unjustly reap the fruit of my labours. But I checked myself, and I am glad I did. We took lodgings in

a neighbouring village, and I went round among the gentlemen of the country to see if I could get a little employment. In the meantime the former steward came down to settle accounts with his successor, and was much concerned to find me in such a situation. He was a very able and honest man, and had been engaged by another nobleman to superintend a large improvable estate in a distant part of the kingdom. He told me, if I would try my fortune with him once more, he would endeavour to procure me a new settlement. I had nothing to lose, and therefore was willing enough to run any hazard; but I was destitute of means to convey my family to such a distance. My good friend, who was much provoked at the injustice of the new steward, said so much to him that he brought him to make an allowance for my garden: and with that I was enabled to make another removal. It was to the place I now inhabit.

This, Sir, is my history. You see it contains nothing very extraordinary; but if it impresses on the mind of this young gentleman the maxim that patience and perseverance will scarcely fail of a good issue in the end, the time you have spent in listening to it will not be entirely lost.



HERNE BAY.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

HERNE BAY AND HERNE CHURCH.

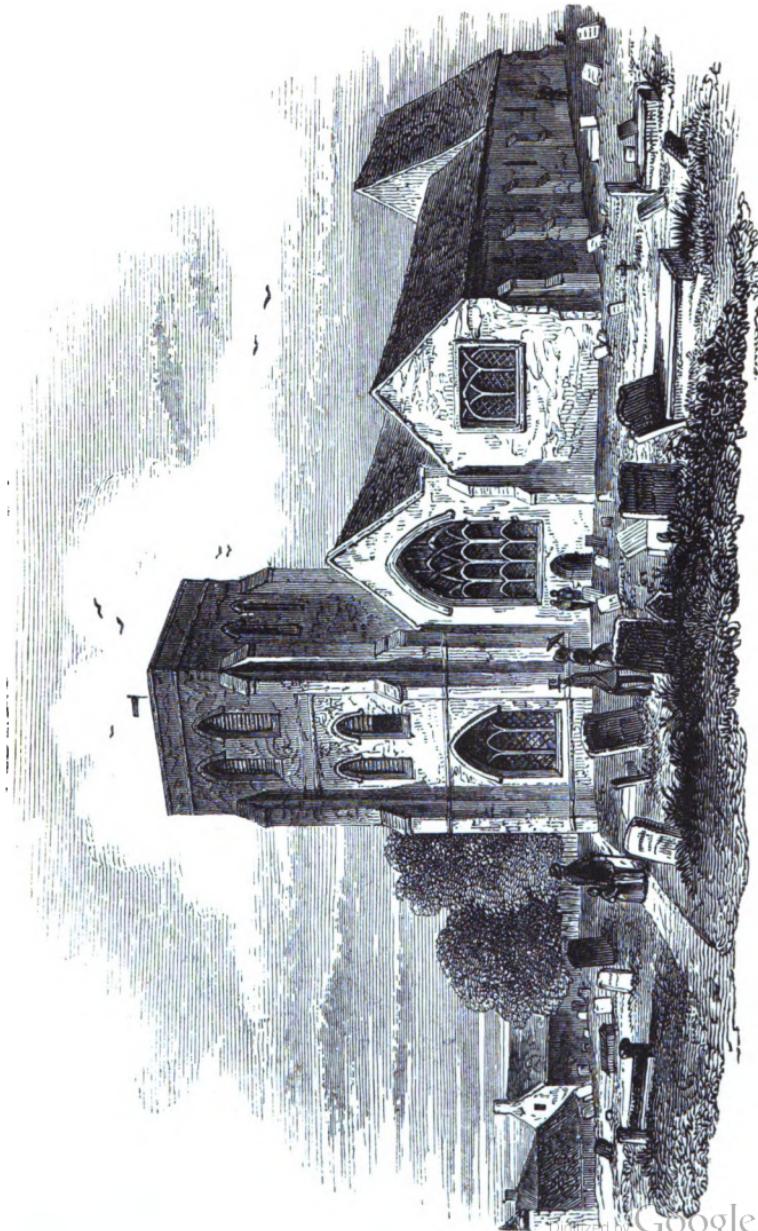
WITHIN a very few years only has the above quiet, yet healthful watering-place put forth its claims for public patronage. Its origin seems to have been quiet from its very name, for the locality was selected in olden time by herons as their abiding place. Nearly the whole of that part of the town which is finished fronts the bay. There are two or three hotels, of which the Pier Hotel is the largest; and report speaks highly of the Dolphin also. The wooden pier, running 3000 feet into the sea, forms the grand promenade.

Herne Bay is reputed to be a perfect paradise for the more sedate and quietly disposed, but there is no doubt that in a few years its character will be greatly changed, it being impossible that the many unfinished streets should remain as they are.

The scenery of the surrounding country is very beautiful. Within an easy drive of Canterbury, you have some of the most lovely and memorable spots in Kent; and who would not wish to visit Canterbury so famed in English History; a spot so intimately connected with the first establishment of Christianity in this island. Canterbury is a city of great

antiquity. A staple of wool was granted by Edward III.; but its chief importance, previously to the Reformation, was derived from its numerous religious establishments and the influx of pilgrims of all ranks and conditions.

Herne Church is a large and spacious edifice dedicated to St. Martin. Its length is 113 feet, and its breadth 59. Several of the Fineux family lie buried here. Their ancestor, Sir John Fineux, Chief Justice of the King's Bench in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII., having purchased an estate in this parish, on which, says Leland, he " builded his faire house for the comodite of preserving his helth." Here also are several memorials of the family of Milles, who, for several generations, resided at the Rectory House in this parish; and one of whom, Christopher Milles, Esq., was "sometime clerk of Queen Ann's Robes; afterwards successively sworne of King James and King Charles's most honourable Privy Chamber." In the chancel is a mural monument for Sir William Thornhurst, Bart., on which is his effigy kneeling at a desk. Herne was the first cure of the pious Ridley, afterwards Bishop of Rochester and London; and here he resided for several years, discharging the duties of his pastoral office with great zeal. He was collated to this vicarage in 1538, by Archbishop Cranmer, with whom he lived in habits of friendship, and frequently visited at the Archiepiscopal Palace at Ford.



HERNE CHURCH.



C. MEEHAN, M.S.

THE TREE THAT CLOTHES US.

Do you ever, little boys and girls, when you are snug and comfortable in your beds, covered by soft and warm clothing, and surrounded by nice protecting bed-furniture, think from what a simple, but wonderful source, all these comforts come? When you behold the splendidly beautiful and fine muslin which is used for the dresses of the wealthy and the cotton gowns which con-

stitute the dress of millions of females, do you ever reflect that all bountiful Nature supplies them and innumerable other things, by means of a beautiful tree? You may not have thought upon these things, so I will give you a short history of cotton and its progress.

The discovery of cotton appears to be of very ancient date. Moses speaks of robes which were worn in his time, and commanded the people not to wear garments of divers sorts, as of woollen and linen together. Herodotus tells us that cotton was the customary wear of the Indians. He says that they possess a kind of plant which, instead of fruit, produces wool of a finer and better quality than that of sheep,—of this the Indians make their clothes. Nearchus, of the time of Alexander, also tells us that the Indians wore long garments, the substance whereof they were made growing upon trees. They wore shirts also of the same, which reached down to the middle of their legs, and veils which covered their heads and great part of their shoulders. The antiquity of cotton is also attested by Pliny, who describes it as growing in the higher parts of Egypt, and of which, he says, the Egyptian priests were wont to have surplices made, in which they took a singular delight. History also tells us that the dress of the Babylonians of antiquity consisted of a tunic of lawn, which they wore next their skin. It appears also that the Athenians wore long robes of fine cotton.

The use of cotton as an article of dress gradually spread among the people of the East. The credit of its introduction as an article of commerce seems to belong to the followers of Mahommed. It is said of Omar, the immediate successor of Mahommed, that he preached in a tattered cotton gown, torn in twelve places; and of Ali, his contemporary, who assumed the caliphate after him, that on the day of his inauguration he went to the masque dressed in a thin cotton gown tied round with a girdle, with a coarse turban on his head, his slippers in one hand, and his bow in the other, instead of a walking staff. Indeed, the use of cotton appears to have been well understood by the eastern countries of the globe in the remotest ages. There is scarcely a traveller who has made his way into these regions but bears testimony to its existence.

China, however, must be excepted in this account, for by historical documents it appears that, although the Chinese possess this vegetable so near them, they did not turn their attention to its manufacture until many centuries after their neighbours.

In Mexico, also, cotton appears to have been manufactured. A traveller, who had visited that people, tells us that the Mexicans made large webs of cotton as delicate and as fine as those of Holland, which were, with much reason, highly esteemed in Europe. They wove their clothes of

different figures and colours, representing different animals, and flowers. Of feathers interwoven with cotton, they made mantles and bed curtains, carpets, gowns, and other things not less soft than beautiful. With cotton they also interwove the finest hair from the belly of rabbits and hares, after having spun it into thread. Of this material they made beautiful clothes, and in particular winter waistcoats for their lords.

Marco Paulo tells us that cotton is produced in Guzerat in large quantities from a tree that is about six yards in height, and bears during twenty years; but the cotton taken from trees of this age is not adapted for spinning, but only quilting. Such, on the contrary, as is taken from trees of twelve years old is suitable for muslins and other manufactures of extraordinary fineness. Forbes also tells us that the cotton shrub, which grows to the height of three or four feet, and in verdure resembles the currant bush, requires a longer time than rice (which grows up and is reaped in six months) to bring its delicate production to perfection. He says, the shrubs are planted between rows of rice, but do not impede its growth, or prevent it being reaped. Soon after the rice harvest is over, the cotton bushes put forth their beautiful yellow flowers with a crimson eye in each petal; this is succeeded by a green pod filled with a white string pulp, the pod turns brown and hard as it ripens, and then

separates into two or three divisions containing the cotton. The seed is planted in March, April, and May, and the cotton is gathered by hand within a few days after the opening of the pods in August, September, and October. In America it is planted in rows of five feet asunder, and in holes eighteen inches apart, in each of which several seeds are deposited. Careful weeding of the ground is necessary, and the plants require to be gradually thinned, so as to leave only one or two for each hole ; they are also to be pruned, by nipping off the ends of the branches, in order to make them put out more branches and yield more fruit.

A field of cotton at the gathering season, when the globes of snowy wool are seen among the glossy dark green leaves, is singularly beautiful ; and in the hottest countries where the yellow blossom or flower, and the ripened fruit are seen at the same time, the beauty of the plantation is of course still more remarkable. It is said that nearly every woman in India employs a portion of her time in spinning, we need not wonder then at the exquisite productions of the Indian cotton workers.

Mr. Orme, in his historical fragments of the Mogul Empire, tells us that the women spin the thread destined for the cloth, and then deliver it to the men who have fingers to model it exquisitely as these have prepared it. The rigid fingers of an European would scarcely be able to make a piece of

canvass with the instruments which are all that an Indian employs in making a piece of muslin.

Mr. Mill, in his history of British India, thus explains the skill of the Indian cotton worker. It is a sedentary occupation, and is thus in harmony with the Indian inclination. It requires patience also, of which he has an inexhaustible store. It requires little bodily exertion, of which he is always exceedingly sparing; and the finer the production the more slender the force which he is called upon to supply. But this is not all. The weak and delicate frame of the Hindoo is accompanied with an acuteness of external sense, particularly of touch, which is altogether unrivalled; and the flexibility of his fingers is equally remarkable.

The hand of the Hindoo, therefore, constitutes an organ adapted to the finest operation of the loom, in a degree which is almost or altogether peculiar to himself.

The tools which the Indian employs in his cotton trade are of the most simple and rude construction, and it is surprising that such beautiful fabrics should be wrought in such perfection by such loose and imperfect means. The Indian loom is certainly essentially the same as that of the English weaver; but its various parts are put together with so little art, and are altogether so primitive in their form as scarcely to deserve the term which is given to it.

Mr. Mills, in his British India, thus describes the Indian

loom:— It consists merely of two bamboo rollers, one for the warp, and one for the web, and a pair of gear. The shuttle performs the double office of shuttle and batten, and for this purpose is made like a large netting-needle, and of a length somewhat exceeding the breadth of the piece. This apparatus the weaver carries to a tree, under which he digs a hole large enough to contain his legs and the lower part of the gear. He then stretches his warp, by fastening his bamboo rollers at due distances from each other, on the turf by means of wooden pins. The balances of the gear he fastens to some convenient branch of the tree over his head: two loops underneath the gear, in which he inserts his great toes, serve instead of treadles; and his long shuttle, which also performs the office of batten, draws the weft through the warp, and afterwards strikes it up close to the web. There is not so much as an expedient for rolling up the warp; it is stretched out at the full length of the web, which makes the house of the weaver insufficient to contain him. He is therefore obliged to work continually in the open air; and every return of inclement weather interrupts him. Yet with implements so rude and simple, and which may be purchased for a few shillings, they produce those fine muslins which have been sought for by the various nations of the world as objects of curiosity, from the exquisite beauty and fineness of their texture.

The spinning apparatus of the Indian is equally rude as the loom. When the cotton is first gathered from the tree, it contains the seed and pieces of the husk by which it was enveloped attached to it; it has, therefore, before it can be subjected to the operation of spinning, to undergo a process that will divest it of those superfluous parts. In India this is performed by a rude hand-mill, or gin, turned by women. The mill consists of two rollers of teak wood, fluted longitudinally with five or six grooves, and revolving nearly in contact. The upper roller is turned by a handle, and the lower is carried along with it by a perpetual screw of the axis. The cotton is put in at one side, and drawn through by the revolving rollers; but the seeds being too large to pass through the opening, are torn off and fall down on the opposite side to the cotton.

The next process of the Indian cotton working was termed "bowing;" this is for the purpose of cleansing it from dirt, and opening the knots. The method is as follows:

A large bow made elastic by a complication of strings is used; this being put in contact with a heap of cotton, the workman strikes the string with a wooden mallet, and its vibrations open the knots of the cotton, shake from it the dust and impurities, and raise it to a downy fleece. The hand-mill and bow have been used immemorially throughout all the districts of Asia, and have their appropriate names in

the Arabic and other languages; they were formerly used in America, whence the term still applied in commerce “bowed Georgian cotton.”

The hatters of our own country still raise their wool by the bow.

The process of spinning follows next. This is performed by women. The coarse yarn is spun on a heavy one-thread wheel, and also of the rudest workmanship; the finer sometimes with, and sometimes without a distaff. A bit of clay is attached as a weight to one end of the spindle, which is turned round with the left hand, whilst the cotton is supplied with the right; the thread is wound on a small piece of wood, the spinner keeping her fingers dry by means of a chalky powder. In this simple way the Indian women produce yarns which are finer and far more tenacious than any of the machine-spun yarns of Europe.

We learn from two travellers of the ninth century, that in India they made garments of such extraordinary perfection, that nowhere else were the like to be seen: they were woven of that remarkable fineness that they could be drawn through a ring of moderate size. Marco Paulo tells us that in the thirteenth century they produced the most beautiful cottons that are to be found in the world. It appears, however, that the merchants were not permitted to sell from their own country, for the governor is obliged to send it all to the

Great Mogul, and to the principal lords of the Court, to make the sultana and the noblemen's wives garments in the hot weather. The same writer also tells us that the rich Indians have their calico so fine that twenty-five or thirty ells of it put into a turban will not weigh four ounces.





BROADSTAIRS.

LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

BROADSTAIRS,

ANCIENTLY called Bradstow, has of late years become a very thriving and fashionable watering place, and many new houses have been erected, which in the summer time are inhabited by families of the first respectability. About the time of Henry VIII. a small wooden pier was built here for the protection of the fishing craft, most probably by the Culmer family, who fortified the gate or way leading down to the sea shore by an arched portal, defended by a portcullis and strong gates, this was done to prevent the inhabitants being plundered by privateers. The arch still remains, it having been repaired by Sir J. Henniker, Bart., now Lord Henniker.

In Elizabeth's time by two indentures the Culmers granted the pier, and the way leading to it, under certain conditions, to the inhabitants and parishioners, to hold for ever for the good of the Commonwealth. From the dues becoming insufficient to keep the pier and harbour in repair, an Act was obtained in the thirty-second of George III. for granting

public aid for that purpose ; yet the desired improvements were not made, on account of the trade decreasing throughout the year, and other causes. Near the pier are the remains of a small chapel, now converted into a dwelling house, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and in which, says Lewis, was her image, called our Lady of Broadstairs, formerly held in so great veneration, that the ships as they sailed by this place used to lower their topsails to salute it. Some ship-building is carried on here. Libraries and other entertainments are provided for the visitors, who annually flock to this coast.

“ Here,” observes Lewis, “ within my memory, after a great deal of rain which occasioned a fall of the adjoining cliff, have been found a great many brass coins, &c. of the Roman Emperors.”

“ Near Broadstairs,” says Kilburne, “ on the 9th of July, 1574, a monstrous fish shot himself on shore on the sand, now called Fishness, where, from want of water, he died the next day, before which his dreadful roaring was heard above a mile. His length was twenty-two yards, the lower jaw opening twelve feet. One of his eyes was more than a cart and six horses could draw, and a man stood upright in the socket whence it was taken.”

SEAL CATCHING.

ONE of the tribes of people that inhabit Labrador and the other shores of Hudson's Bay, in North America, are called Esquimaux. It is a very cold, wild, dreary country that they live in; and its coasts are lined with mountains, the lower parts of which are black and craggy, whilst the summits are covered with snow.

When Captain Parry and his crew made a voyage, a few years ago, into the Arctic Seas, a tribe of Esquimaux approached the ships. They appeared at a little distance to have arms in their hands; but what Captain Parry and his men had taken for bows and spears, proved to be only a few blades of whalebone, which they had brought either as a peace offering or for barter, and which the crew immediately purchased for a few small nails and beads. They were all dressed in deer skin; and, after having had some friendly intercourse together, Captain Parry's men obtained leave to accompany the natives to their huts, which were five in number, containing sixty inhabitants. I must tell you what the huts are made of, for you would never guess. Not

a single material was employed in their construction except snow and ice !

After creeping through two arched passages, each of which had an arched door-way, the sailors came to a small round apartment. From this, three door-ways, also arched, led into as many inhabited apartments, one on each side, and the other facing them as they entered. Several women and children were sitting in each of them, on benches of snow, covered with skins, and some of them were cooking their food, (which consisted of the flesh of seals and walrus and rein-deer flesh,) by means of a lamp, which gave a most beautiful and brilliant light, being supplied with the oil of these animals.

The children of the Esquimaux had never seen strangers before, and they were so frightened at their novel appearance, that they tried to hide themselves behind their mothers, or under the skins that covered the benches. Poor little things ! They are brought up in a very ignorant manner ; for, as their parents know but little themselves, it is not to be expected that they can teach their children much. When we think of all this, and of all the advantages that English children enjoy, I am sure we ought to be very good, and very grateful to that kind heavenly Being who has taken such care of us, and given us parents and friends to instruct us in all sorts of useful knowledge, and to train us in Wisdom's ways.

Now, I will tell you how the Esquimaux contrive to catch the seals, which, as I have before said, constitute a principal part of their food. Captain Parry had often observed little mounds upon the ice, resembling our mole-hills, without ever supposing that they were the work of the seals underneath, until he observed an Esquimaux watching one.

If a native imagines there is a seal at work he immediately hides himself on the spot, and seldom leaves it till he has succeeded in killing the animal. For this purpose he builds himself a snow-wall about four feet high, to shelter him from the wind, and, seating himself on one side of it, he places his spear, lines, and other instruments, upon several little forked sticks inserted in the snow, in order to prevent the smallest noise being made in moving them when wanted. He also ties his knees together with a thong, to prevent his clothes from rustling. Thus situated he exercises all his patience, and sometimes sits for hours together attentively listening to any noise made by the seal. When he supposes the hole to be nearly completed, he carefully lifts his spear, to which the line had been previously fastened; and, as soon as the blowing of the seal is distinctly heard, and the ice very thin, he drives the instrument down with both hands, and then cuts away with his knife the remaining crust of ice to enable him to repeat his wounds and get the seal out.

When the Esquimaux are not quite sure whether a seal is

at work below, they try to find it out by means of a very ingenious instrument called a *keipkuttuk*. This is made of bone, with a point at one end, and a knob at the other, and is as fine as a slender wire in order that the seal may not see it; this they thrust through into the ice, in order to discover by its motion whether the animal is at work; if it does not move they give up the attempt. When they observe a seal upon the surface of the ice, they lie down, and crawl feet foremost towards him, an operation of great fatigue and tediousness: — one man lies concealed behind the other, and by scraping the ice with his spear, and moving his feet in imitation of their flappers, they generally deceive the animal until they get very close to him; then, after lying still for a minute or two, they suddenly spring forward, and, striking him with the spear, secure him as their prize.



LOCAL SKETCHES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.



ERITH CHURCH.

THIS interesting and highly picturesque little church, the admiration of all who have seen it, is situated on the banks of the Thames, near Crayford, in Kent. It contains three aisles and two chancels, with a spire steeple at the west end. In this edifice are many remarkable monuments and inscrip-

tions, commemorative of the following families: Sir John Griffith, of Erith, Anne Harman, John Aylmer, and Roger Sencler; effigies in brass of Edward Hawse and his wife, also of Sir Richard Walden; a noble tomb of white marble for the Countess of Shrewsbury; a mural monument for Francis Vanacker, Esq., lord of the manor of Erith; a gravestone for Margaret, daughter of John Wheatley, another for William Hedges, also lord of this manor, and on a gravestone at the entrance of the south aisle, a brass plate with the following inscription in black letter,

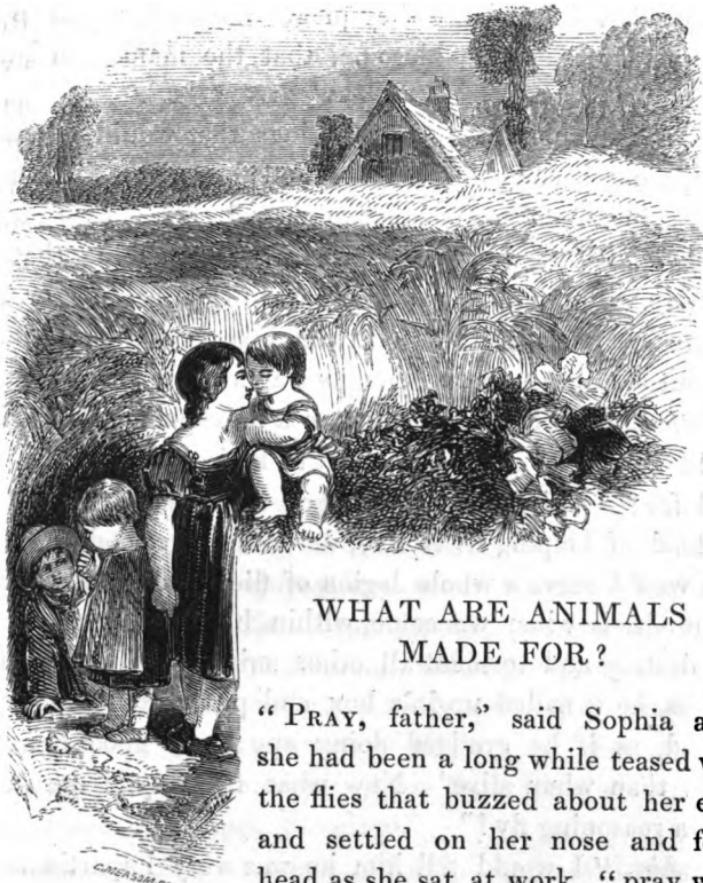
“Ellin Atte Coke Gist Icy,
Dieu de sa Alme Eit Mercy;”

which literally translated reads,—

Ellin Atte Coke lies here,
God on her soul have mercy.

In this Church also lies buried Anne Countess of Pembroke, who died in 1589, and Edward Abell, of Hering Hill, who departed this life in the reign of Henry IV.

In this church, under the reign of king John, commissioners were appointed to treat with Richard Earl of Clare, on behalf of the discontented barons, touching a peace between the king and his nobles, for which purpose safe conduct was granted them.



WHAT ARE ANIMALS MADE FOR ?

“ PRAY, father,” said Sophia after she had been a long while teased with the flies that buzzed about her ears, and settled on her nose and forehead as she sat at work, “ pray what were flies made for ? I never could see the use of them.”

“ For some good, I dare say,” replied her father.

Sophia. "But I think they do a great deal more harm than good, for I am sure they plague me sadly; and in the kitchen they are so troublesome, that the maids can hardly do their work for them."

Father. "Flies eat up many things that would otherwise corrupt and become loathsome; and they serve for food to birds, spiders, and many other animals."

Sophia. "But we could clean away every thing that was offensive without their help; and as to their serving for food, I have seen whole heaps of them lying dead in a window without seeming to have done good to any thing."

Father. "Well then. Suppose a fly capable of thinking; would he not be equally puzzled to find out what men were good for? 'This great two-legged monster,' he might say, 'instead of helping us to live, devours more food at a meal than would serve a whole legion of flies. Then he kills us by hundreds when we come within his reach; and I see him destroy and torment all other animals too. And when he dies, he is nailed up in a box and put a great way under ground, as if he grudged doing any more good after his death than when alive.' Now what would you answer to such a reasoning fly?"

Sophia. "I would tell him he was very impertinent for talking so to his betters; for that he and all other creatures were made for the use of man, and not man for theirs."

Father. "But would you tell him true? You have just been saying that you could not find out of what use flies were to us: whereas, when they suck our blood, there is no doubt that we are of use to them."

Sophia. "It is that which puzzles me."

Father. "There are many other animals which we call *noxious*; and which are so far from being useful to us, that we take all possible pains to get rid of them. More than that—there are vast tracts of the earth where few or no men inhabit, which are yet full of beasts, birds, insects, and all living things. These certainly do not exist here for man's use alone. On the contrary, they often keep him away."

Sophia. "Then what are they made for?"

Father. "They are made to be happy. It is a manifest purpose of the Creator to give being to as much life as possible, for life is enjoyment to all creatures in health and in possession of their faculties. Man surpasses other animals in his powers of enjoyment, and he has prospects in a future state which they do not share with him. But the Creator equally desires the happiness of all his creatures, and looks down with as much benignity upon these flies that are sporting around us, as upon ourselves."

Sophia. "Then we ought not to kill them if they are ever so troublesome."

Father. "I do not say that. We have a right to make a

reasonable use of all animals for our advantage, and also to free ourselves from such as are hurtful to us. So far our superiority over them may fairly extend. But we should never abuse them for our mere amusement, nor take away their lives wantonly. Nay, a good-natured man will rather undergo a *little* inconvenience, than take away from a creature all that it possesses. An infant may destroy life, but all the kings upon earth cannot restore it. I remember reading of a good-tempered old gentleman, who having been a long time plagued with a great fly that buzzed about his face all dinner-time, at length, after many efforts, caught it. Instead of crushing it to death, he held it carefully in his hand, and opening the window, 'Go,' said he, 'get thee gone, poor creature; I won't hurt a limb of thee: surely the world is wide enough for thee and me.'

Sophia. "I should have loved that man."

Father. "One of our poets has written some very pretty lines to a fly that came to partake with him of his wine. They begin,

'Busy, curious, thirsty fly,
Drink with me, and drink as I;
Welcome freely to my cup,
Could'st thou sip and sip it up.'

Sophia. "How pretty! I think they will almost make me love flies. But pray, father, do not animals destroy one another?"

Father. "They do indeed. The greatest part of them only live by the destruction of life. There is a perpetual warfare going on, in which the stronger prey upon the weaker, and, in their turns, are the prey of those which are a degree stronger than themselves. Even the innocent sheep, with every mouthful of grass, destroys hundreds of small insects. In the air we breathe, and the water we drink, we give death to thousands of invisible creatures."

Sophia. "But is not that very strange? If they were created to live and be happy, why should they be destroyed so fast?"

Father. "They are destroyed no faster than others are produced; and if they enjoyed life while it lasted, they have had a good bargain. By making animals the food of animals Providence has filled up every chink, as it were, of existence. You see these swarms of flies. During all the hot weather they are continually coming forth from the state of eggs and maggots, and as soon as they get the use of wings they roam about, and fill every place in search of food. Meantime they are giving sustenance to the whole race of spiders; they maintain all the swallow tribe, and contribute greatly to the support of many other small birds; and even afford many a delicate morsel to the fishes. Their own numbers, however, seem scarcely diminished, and vast multitudes live on till the cold weather comes and puts an end to them.

Were nothing to touch them they would probably become so numerous as to starve each other. As it is, they are full of enjoyment themselves, and afford life and enjoyment to other creatures, which in their turn supply the wants of others."

Sophia. "It is no charity, then, to tear a spider's web in pieces in order to set a fly at liberty."

Father. "None at all—no more than it would be to demolish the traps of a poor Indian hunter, who depended upon them for his dinner. They both act as nature directs them. Shall I tell you a story?"

Sophia. "O yes—pray do!"

Father. "A venerable Bramin, who had never in his days eaten any thing but rice and milk, and held it the greatest of crimes to shed the blood of any thing that had life, was one day meditating on the banks of the Ganges. He saw a little bird on the ground picking up ants as fast as he could swallow. 'Murderous wretch,' cried he, 'what scores of lives are sacrificed to one glutinous meal of thine!' Presently a sparrow-hawk, pouncing down, seized him in his claws, and flew off with him. The Bramin at first was inclined to triumph over the little bird; but, on hearing his cries, he could not help pitying him. 'Poor thing,' said he, 'thou art fallen into the clutches of thy tyrant!' A stronger tyrant, however, took up the matter; for a falcon in mid-air

darting on the sparrow-hawk, struck him to the ground, with the bird lifeless in his talons. 'Tyrant against tyrant,' thought the Bramin, 'is well enough.' The falcon had not finished tearing his prey, when a lynx, stealing from behind the rock on which he was perched, sprung on him, and, having strangled him, bore him to the edge of a neighbouring thicket, and began to suck his blood. The Bramin was attentively viewing this new display of retributive justice, when a sudden roar shook the air, and a huge tiger, rushing from the thicket, came like thunder on the lynx. The Bramin was near enough to hear the crashing bones, and was making off in terror, when he met an English soldier, armed with his musket. He pointed eagerly to the place where the tiger was making his bloody repast. The soldier levelled his gun, and laid the tiger dead. 'Brave fellow!' exclaimed the Bramin. 'I am very hungry,' said the soldier, 'can you give me a beef-steak? I see you have plenty of cows here.' 'Horrible!' cried the Bramin; 'what! I kill the sacred cows of Brama!' 'Then kill the next tiger yourself,' said the soldier."

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THIS BOOK.

My little friends, in concluding this book which I have prepared for you, I wish to say a few words as to the intentions I had when I began it. My chief object has been to supply you with materials for thinking and conversation, that you may not sit like dumb creatures when you are in company, nor feel a want of something to think about when you are alone.

I have in my lifetime known young people, and also people advanced in years, who would not read and thereby store their minds with subjects to converse about, and the consequence has been that they have been driven to tell falsehoods in preference to saying nothing at all. Now I am sure you will agree with me that this is not only a very silly practice, but also a very wicked one.

In the foregoing pages I have gathered together a quantity of interesting reading about a variety of things which will suit all classes ; my chief aim having been to make the book both *pleasant* and *profitable*.

I have given you a page or two about Gutta Percha, because it is not generally known whence that substance is derived, and you may be enabled to inform others.

I have also presented a scene in The Life of a Drunkard—

not, of course, as one of the pleasant features of the book ; but, still, one that should be impressed on your minds for the good of others.

I have given you next the life of a favourite, in the shape of a little Dog, in which I fear a few of my readers may trace the fate of some favourite they have had ; but I trust it will be very few indeed. I need scarcely tell you that the kindly feelings of the poor uneducated boy Geordie were far more acceptable to the Almighty Creator of all things than those of this Lady patroness.

The various operations and displays of instinct in quadrupeds, birds, and insects, which I have described, and which I have derived from Bingley's very interesting work, entitled *Animal Biography*, are all calculated to make you adore the Creator more and more. Whether we consider the wonderful instinct which leads the Grosbeaks to form their remarkable nest, or the almost human intelligence which is exhibited in the colonies of the Beavers, or the singular buildings of the Ant kind, or the valuable labours of the Silkworm, or the sublime pattern of industry exhibited to us in the labours of the Bee, all is wonderful.

The extraordinary Dogs of St. Bernard afford a striking lesson to man. If we all acted towards each other as they act towards unfortunate travellers, this world would indeed be very different to what it is.

The traits of Man which I have given you are all pleasing, for even when we read of the *drunkard* we must feel gratified at his noble victory over vice; but when we consider the great Sir Isaac Newton, or the generous Chinese, or the patient "*Miser of Marseilles*," we must indeed admire such instances of heroism. The farmer, too, in "*Strive and Thrive*," teaches us all what important ends we may obtain by perseverance. His history is like that of all men who are successful; nothing is done without diligence, and a determination to overcome difficulties. This tale you may perhaps have seen in "*Evenings at Home*," but it is good enough to repeat, and you may not have read it.

The short story, "*What are Animals made for?*" is a very important lesson also. We are so commonly led to disapprove of all we see around us, that we lose one half of the enjoyments of life. Instead of looking upon all things uncommon as creatures designed for some all-wise purpose of the Creator, we set up our judgment against them and pronounce them to be nasty and ugly. Yes, and some children have been so ridiculous as to run away and scream, and almost go into fits, at seeing a poor harmless frog come leaping across the grass; but if they had had the good sense to stoop down and admire its beautiful skin and brilliant eyes, they might have had much gratification. The same may be said of every object in nature. When we consider that all things were

created by the Omnipotent Ruler of the universe, we should do much better to seek out the purposes of their existence than to find fault with them.

Hoping that you will be amused and benefited by all that I have here set before you, I will end by subscribing myself

Your sincere friend,

THE AUTHOR.



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